

1 Introduction

The basis of Islaam is *tawheed ul uloohiyyah* (singling Allaah out in all matters of worship).

Therefore, in this first series of emails, we will discuss issues of *tawheed*, based upon evidences from the Qur-aan and the authentic hadeeths, as well as discussing other aspects of what Muslims believe.

Topics that will be covered will be the idea that Allaah alone is our Creator, how this necessitates that we should worship Him and worship no one else, and how we learn more about what Allah is like.

These short emails are based on the writings of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan who is one of the senior scholars alive today in Saudi Arabia, in particular his book "*'aqeedah ut tawheed*".

This is important to know since in Islam, great importance is attached to knowing where Islamic information has been taken from.

Let us start right at the beginning.

QUESTION: What are the pillars of the religion of Islam?

ANSWER: Muslims believe that their religion is built upon certain pillars, in the same way as a stable house is built upon pillars.

Muslims believe a man called Muhammad to be the last in the series of Prophets that Allah (the name of the one true God deserving of worship) sent to mankind – and Muhammad (ﷺ) said:

Islam is built upon five:

The testimony that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.

The establishment of the prayer.

The giving of the zakat (the annual charity to be given to the needy).

The fasting of Ramadan.

And the hajj (pilgrimage) to the House (of Allah).

QUESTION: Is the religion of Islam complete?

ANSWER: Muslims believe Islam to be complete and that it was in fact rendered complete during the lifetime of Muhammad (ﷺ):

The Quran says:

On this day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed my favour upon you and have chosen for you Islam as your religion.

(Surah al Maaidah (the 5th chapter) verse 3)

NEXT TIME:

We will begin to discuss in some more detail the first pillar - the Islamic belief.

What are the important beliefs that make a person Muslim?

What is the "sharee'ah" - a term which we hear so much about nowadays in the media?