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**QUESTION:** What are the three pillars around which worship revolves?

**ANSWER:** Perhaps it is worthwhile reminding ourselves what this commonly used word “worship” actually means.

We have already mentioned a definition of worship in past emails, the definition being that of one of the scholars of Islam from 700 years ago – a man called ibn Taymiyyah:

Worship is:

‘a comprehensive term for everything which Allah loves and is pleased with, from the person’s speech and actions, both outward visible actions and inward (i.e. hidden) actions.’

This worship comprises three different aspects: <sup>1</sup>

- a) Love (which occurs along with humility)
- b) Hope
- c) Fear

Islam teaches that in order for worship to be complete, it has to combine all of these three aspects.

Whoever attaches himself to one of them only has not truly worshipped Allah.

To illustrate this:

A person who loves something whilst not humbling himself before that thing has not worshipped it.

This is the case with a person who loves his son or loves his friend, but does not of course humble himself before them. He has not worshipped his son or his friend.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to ‘*aqeedah ut tawheed*’ p70 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information

A person who humbles himself before a person, whilst not loving that person has similarly not worshipped that person.

This is the case with the person who humbles himself before a tyrannical ruler or oppressor out of fear of the ruler's evil, but in his heart he hates him.

And similar examples regarding hope and fear can be made.

It is hopefully clear that to truly worship Allah, Muslims should have the utmost love of him and humbleness before Him, whilst having hope in Him for His Mercy to come upon them, yet fearing that His Punishment may come to them.

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## **NEXT TIME:**

We have been talking about the tawheed (uniqueness of Allah) in terms of His Right to have all worship directed to Him.

We will move on and begin to discuss the third aspect of tawheed – the tawheed of Allah's Names and Attributes.

Does Allah have Names and Attributes? How do we understand these?