

## Tawheed comes first

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

**Question:** Is it sufficient to utter the testimony of faith, namely La Ilaaha Illaallaah, Muhammad Rasool Allaah (i.e. there is no one worthy of worship other than Allaah, and indeed Muhammad is Allaah's Messenger), which is the first pillar of Islaam or are there other things that must be fulfilled in order to have a perfect Islaam?

**Shaykh Bin Baaz** (رَجَمَهُ اللَّهُ)<sup>1</sup>: If a non-Muslim utters the testimony of faith out of firm belief, sincerity, and awareness of its meaning and acts according to this, they are regarded as Muslims. However, they are then required to offer Salaah (Prayer) and abide by the rulings of Islaam. When the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)<sup>2</sup> thus sent Mu`adh (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ)<sup>3</sup> to Yemen, he (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said to him: **Invite them to testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allaah, and that I am the Messenger of Allaah. If they obey you in doing so, tell them that Allaah has enjoined upon them five prayers during the day and night. If they obey you in doing so, tell them that Allaah has made Zakaah (obligatory charity) obligatory upon them which should be taken from the rich and distributed among the poor.**<sup>4</sup> The Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) only commanded them to perform Salaah and pay Zakaah after they had declared their belief in Tawheed (Oneness of Allaah) and in the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). When a Kaafir (disbeliever) does so, they will be considered Muslims. They are to be asked to perform Salaah and abide by all the rulings of Islaam. If they abstain from doing so, other rulings will apply to them. For example, if they abandon Salaah, the ruler should give them a chance to repent but if they do not, they will have to be killed. Likewise, they will be given the due punishment of any other ruling that they violate.

<sup>1</sup> (رَجَمَهُ اللَّهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

<sup>2</sup> (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

<sup>3</sup> (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

<sup>4</sup> Saheeh al-Bukhaaree, Saheeh Muslim and at-Tirmidhee