Introduction: The Book and Tawheed

Author Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab ibn Sulayman al-Tamimi Al Najd. 1703-1792 C.E. / 1115-1206 A.H.	**Meaning of Fadl al-Islam** The Merit of Islam. The matn teaches the value of Islam, holding firmly to it, following the Quran and Sunnah and staying away from Bidah.	**Main Method** Follow Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his Companions. Understand the Quran and Sunnah as understood by the Salaf.

What Is Tawheed?

Root Letters و ح د The root means to make something one or to single something out.	**Linguistic Meaning** To make something one without giving it an equal and to single it out.	**Technical Meaning** To single out Allah alone in His Lordship, worship and His Names and Attributes.

Three Categories of Tawheed

Tawheed of Lordship Allah alone is the Creator, Provider and Controller. He gives life and death and provides for creation.	**Tawheed of Worship** All worship is for Allah alone. Prayer, Dua, reliance and every act of worship must not be directed to anyone besides Allah.	**Names and Attributes** Believe in Allah's Names and Attributes found in the Quran and Sunnah in the correct way. Example: Ar-Rahman and As-Sami.

Tawheed Throughout the Quran

1. Allah's Names and Actions Verses teach us about Allah's Names, Attributes and Actions.	**2. Worship Allah Alone** Verses call us to worship Allah alone and leave what is worshipped besides Him.	**3. Commands and Prohibitions** Verses teach us to obey Allah and stay away from what He prohibited.
4. People of Tawheed Verses tell us about the people of Tawheed and their rewards.	**5. People of Shirk** Verses warn about the people of Shirk and its consequences.	

Words and Verses That Show Tawheed

Surah al-Baqarah 2:133 "One God." Ibn Katheer explained this as making Allah One in worship.	**Surah an-Nahl 16:51** "He is but one God." At-Tabari explained this as Allah being One in Lordship and worship.	**Surah al-Maidah 5:73** There is no god except One God. Allah has no partners and no one deserves worship with Him.

Tawheed in the Sunnah

Muadh Sent to Yemen The Prophet ﷺ told Muadh to begin by calling the People of the Book to make Allah One. Sahih al-Bukhari.	**Islam Is Built on Five** Ibn Umar reported that Islam begins with making Allah One, then Salah, Zakah, fasting Ramadan and Hajj. Sahih Muslim.	**Shahadah** Another narration begins with testifying that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah and Muhammad ﷺ is His Messenger. Bukhari and Muslim.

Tawheed in the Understanding of the Salaf

The Salaf The Companions and early generations. The Prophet ﷺ said the best generations are his generation, then the next two. Sahih al-Bukhari.	**Jaabir and the Talbiyah** "You have no partner." Jaabir described the Prophet's ﷺ Talbiyah as Tawheed. Sahih Muslim.	**Delegation of Abdul Qais** Believing in Allah alone includes the Shahadah: none has the right to be worshipped except Allah and Muhammad ﷺ is His Messenger. Sahih al-Bukhari.
Ataa ibn Abi Rabah He explained Iman in Surah al-Maidah 5:5 as Tawheed.	**Ad-Darimi** Tawheed in this Ummah is Laa ilaaha illa Allah, Muhammadur Rasulullah.	**Al-Ajuri** Laa ilaaha illa Allah must be said with certainty in the heart.

Why Do We Study Tawheed?

1 Allah created us to worship Him alone.	**2** Allah does not accept worship without Tawheed.	**3** Tawheed is a cause of entering Jannah.	**4** Tawheed can increase the reward of good deeds.
5 Tawheed is a cause for sins to be forgiven.	**6** Tawheed is a cause of guidance and security.	**7** Tawheed is a cause of peace in the heart.	**8** Sincere Tawheed is a cause of receiving the Prophet's ﷺ intercession by Allah's permission.

Two Conditions for Correct Worship

1. Sincerity to Allah	2. Following the Prophet ﷺ	Hadith
Every act of worship must be sincerely for Allah alone. The opposite is Shirk.	Worship Allah in the way Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught. The opposite is inventing acts of worship.	"Whoever does a deed which has not been ordered by us, then it is rejected." Sahih Muslim 1718.

Why We Learn About Shirk

Meaning	Major Shirk
Shirk is the opposite of Tawheed. It means giving someone or something a share in what belongs only to Allah.	Directing an act of worship to other than Allah. It takes a person outside Islam. Examples in the notes include Dua to the dead for what only Allah can do and sacrifice as worship for other than Allah.
Minor Shirk	**Hidden Shirk**
Does not take a person outside Islam but weakens Tawheed. Examples include showing off in worship and swearing by other than Allah.	May be hidden in the heart. Showing off can be hidden because a person may want people to praise their worship.

Protection From Shirk

Ibrahim عليه السلام	Dua for Protection	Final Introduction Review
He asked Allah to keep him and his sons away from worshipping idols. Surah Ibrahim 14:35.	"O Allah, I seek refuge in You from associating partners with You knowingly and I seek Your forgiveness for what I do not know." Musnad Ahmad.	Tawheed: Allah alone is our Lord, Allah alone is worshipped and Allah has perfect Names and Attributes. Correct worship needs sincerity and following the Sunnah.

Chapter 1: The Merit of Islam

Main Lesson Islam is a complete religion chosen by Allah. Hold firmly to Islam and the Sunnah.	**Quran Evidence** Surah al-Maidah 5:3: religion perfected. Surah Yunus 10:104: worship Allah alone. Surah al-Hadid 57:28: Allah promises His mercy.	**Workers Hadith** Jews: morning to midday, one qirat. Christians: midday to Asr, one qirat. Muslims: Asr to sunset, two qirats. The extra reward is Allah's favour.
Friday Jews had Saturday, Christians Sunday and Allah guided Muslims to Friday. This Ummah came later but will be ahead on the Day of Resurrection.	**Beloved Religion** Al-Hanifiyyah as-Samhah: pure religion that turns away from Shirk to Allah alone, with ease and balance.	**Ubayy ibn Kab** A smaller amount of worship upon the Sunnah is better than much worship that goes against the Sunnah.
Abu ad-Darda A small deed with righteousness, Taqwa and certainty can be greater than much worship done by a person deceived about himself.		

Chapter 2: The Obligation of Islam

Quran Evidence Al Imran 3:85: only Islam accepted. Al Imran 3:19: religion with Allah is Islam. Al-Anam 6:153: follow the straight path.	**Mujahid** The other paths include Bidah and false doubts that take people away from the straight path.	**Aishah** New religious actions not from Islam are rejected. Bukhari and Muslim.
Abu Hurayrah Whoever obeys the Prophet ﷺ enters Paradise. Whoever disobeys has refused. Bukhari.	**Three Hated People** Includes the person who wants to bring the ways of Jahiliyyah into Islam. Bukhari.	**Straight Path** Hudhayfah warned against turning right or left. Ibn Masud warned about losing scholars and people judging religion by personal opinion.

Chapter 3: The Explanation of Islam

Al Imran 3:20 "I have submitted myself to Allah, and so have those who follow me."	**Five Pillars** Shahadah, Salah, Zakah, fasting Ramadan and Hajj for the one able. Sahih Muslim.	**Muslim and Muhajir** A Muslim keeps Muslims safe from his tongue and hand. A Muhajir leaves what Allah prohibited.
Submitting to Allah Submit the heart to Allah, turn to Allah, perform obligatory Salah and pay Zakah. Ahmad.	**Islam and Iman** Islam includes submission and keeping Muslims safe. Iman includes belief in Allah, angels, Books, Messengers and resurrection after death. Ahmad.	

Chapter 4: Whoever Seeks a Religion Other Than Islam

Main Lesson Islam is the religion accepted by Allah. Deeds must be based upon the true religion.	**Al Imran 3:85** A religion other than Islam will not be accepted.
Day of Judgment Prayer, fasting and other deeds come. Islam is the standard connected to reward and punishment. Ahmad.	**Aishah** An action not according to the Prophet's ﷺ command is rejected. Good intentions alone are not enough.

Chapter 5: The Obligation of Following the Book and the Prophet ﷺ

An-Nahl 16:89 Allah sent the Book as an explanation of everything.	**Umar and the Torah** The Prophet ﷺ saw Umar with a page from the Torah and explained that if Musa عليه السلام were alive, he would have to follow Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.	**Umar's Response** He was pleased with Allah as Lord, Islam as religion and Muhammad ﷺ as Prophet. Ahmad and ad-Darimi.

Chapter 6: Leaving the Call and Name of Islam

Al-Hajj 22:78 Allah named the believers "Muslims."	**Five Commands** Listening, obeying, Jihad, Hijrah and staying with the Jamaah. Ahmad and at-Tirmidhi.
Jamaah Do not separate from the Muslim community. Separation is strongly warned against in Bukhari and Muslim.	**Calls of Jahiliyyah** The Prophet ﷺ rejected group calls that divide Muslims. Pride based on lineage, nationality, race or groups must not replace the call of Islam.

Chapter 7: The Obligation of Entering Islam Completely

Al-Baqarah 2:208 Enter into Islam completely.	**An-Nisa 4:60** Warning about people who claim belief but turn away from revealed guidance.	**Al Imran 3:106** Ibn Abbas connected bright faces with Sunnah and unity and dark faces with Bidah and division.
Saved Way The safe way is what the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions were upon. At-Tirmidhi.	**False Desires** A hadith from Muawiyah warns that false desires can spread deeply. Hold to Quran, Sunnah and the way of the Companions.	

Chapter 8: Bidah Is More Serious Than Major Sins

Main Lesson Bidah changes the religion and can mislead other people.	**An-Nisa 4:48** Allah does not forgive Shirk for the one who dies upon it. He may forgive what is less than that for whom He wills.	**An-Nahl 16:25** Those who mislead others carry their own burdens and some of the burdens of those they misled.
Khawarij The notes contain severe prophetic warnings about their dangerous beliefs and actions. Religious rulings follow revelation, not anger or desire.	**Good Practice** Whoever begins a good practice in Islam receives its reward and the reward of those who follow it.	**Bad Practice** Whoever begins an evil practice carries its sin and the sins of those who follow it. Sahih Muslim.
Guidance and Misguidance Whoever calls to guidance receives reward like followers. Whoever calls to misguidance carries sins like followers. Sahih Muslim.		

Chapter 9: Allah Withholds Repentance from the Person of Bidah

Danger of Bidah A person may become attached to an invented belief or practice and stop recognizing it as wrong.	**Report from Anas** Repentance is withheld from a person of Bidah until he leaves the Bidah.
Ibn Sirin He warned about the serious ending of the hadith concerning people who leave Islam and do not return.	**Imam Ahmad** He explained that the person is not given help to repent. A Muslim should recognize mistakes and return to Quran and Sunnah.

Chapter 10: Following the Religion of Ibrahim عليه السلام and the Sunnah

Al Imran 3:65-67 Ibrahim عليه السلام was not from the people of Shirk.	**Al-Baqarah 2:130** Only a foolish person turns away from the religion of Ibrahim عليه السلام.	**True Allies** Family connection alone does not make someone a close ally of the Prophet ﷺ. His true allies are Allah and the righteous believers.
Three Men One wanted constant night prayer, one constant fasting and one no marriage.	**Prophet's ﷺ Sunnah** He prays and sleeps, fasts and breaks the fast and marries. Whoever turns away from his Sunnah is not upon his way. Bukhari and Muslim.	**Exam Lesson** Good intention is not enough. Correct worship must follow the Sunnah.

Chapter 11: Following the Fitrah and the Religion of Ibrahim عليه السلام

Ar-Rum 30:30 Follow the true religion and the Fitrah upon which Allah created people.	**Al-Baqarah 2:132** Ibrahim and Yaqub عليهما السلام told their children to die only as Muslims.	**An-Nahl 16:123** Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was commanded to follow the religion of Ibrahim عليه السلام, a Hanif who was not from the people of Shirk.
Al Imran 3:68 Those closest to Ibrahim عليه السلام are those who followed him, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and the believers.	**Hearts and Deeds** Allah does not look at bodies or appearances. He looks at hearts and deeds. Sahih Muslim.	**The Hawd** Some people will be kept away because they changed matters after the Prophet ﷺ. Later believers will be recognized by signs of Wudu. Bukhari and Muslim.

Fitrah and Remaining Firm

Every Child Abu Hurayrah reported that every child is born upon the Fitrah. Parents then make the child Jewish, Christian or Magian. The Prophet ﷺ gave the example of an animal born complete. Bukhari and Muslim.	**Hudhayfah** He asked about evil so he could avoid it. The Prophet ﷺ warned about later evil, mixed good and callers leading people away from the Sunnah.	**What to Do** Stay with the Jamaah of Muslims and their leader. If there is no Jamaah and no leader, stay away from divided groups and remain firm.
Later Trials The narration also mentions the Dajjal and the coming of the Last Hour.	**Abu al-Aliyah** Learn Islam, do not leave it, stay on the straight path, hold to the Sunnah and stay away from false desires.	**Author's Warning** Do not think warnings only apply to other people. Every Muslim should fear going away from the straight path.
Straight Line Hadith The Prophet ﷺ drew one straight line as Allah's path and other lines with callers to them. He recited Surah al-Anam 6:153. Ahmad and an-Nasai.		

Chapter 12: The Strangeness of Islam and the Merit of the Strangers

Hud 11:116 Only a small number from earlier generations stood against corruption and were saved.	**Islam Began Strange** Islam began as something strange and will return to being strange. Glad tidings to the strangers. Sahih Muslim.	**Who Are the Strangers?** People who remain righteous when many become corrupt and those who correct the Sunnah when people corrupt it.	**Al-Maidah 5:105** Take care of yourselves. Those who go astray will not harm you if you are guided.
Command Good Continue commanding what is right and forbidding what is wrong.	**Difficult Times** A time may come when greed is followed, desires are obeyed, worldly life is preferred and people admire their own opinions.	**Reward of Fifty** The person who patiently holds to the religion in difficult times is promised a great reward described as the reward of fifty from the earlier believers.	**Hold to Quran and Sunnah** The strangers hold to the Quran when people abandon it and act upon the Sunnah when people leave it.

Chapter 13: Warning Against Bidah

Main Lesson The safe path is the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ and the way of his Companions.	**Al-Irbad ibn Sariyah** The Prophet ﷺ advised Taqwa, listening and obeying. He warned that later Muslims would see many disagreements.
Hold Firmly Hold to the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ and the rightly guided Caliphs. Every Bidah is misguidance. At-Tirmidhi, Abu Dawud, Ibn Majah and Ahmad.	**Hudhayfah** Do not perform an act of worship that the Companions did not practice. Follow the path of those before you.

Ibn Masud and the Circles in the Mosque

What Abu Musa Saw People sat in circles with pebbles counting Takbir, Tahlil and Tasbih one hundred times.	**Ibn Masud's Warning** He told them to count their sins and reminded them that many Companions were still alive.	**Two Possibilities** Either they believed their way was more guided than Prophet Muhammad ﷺ or they were opening a door to misguidance.
Their Intention They said: "We only intended good." Ibn Masud explained that many people intend good but do not reach it.	**Final Lesson** Good intentions do not make an invented religious practice correct. Follow the Sunnah from the beginning and do not open the door to Bidah.	