Introduction to Tawheed

Tawheed: To single out Allah alone.

Main meaning: Allah alone is our Lord. Allah alone deserves worship. Allah has perfect Names and Attributes.

Laa ilaaha illa Allah: There is no one worthy of worship except Allah.

Three Categories of Tawheed

Category	Easy Meaning	Example
Lordship	Allah alone creates, provides and controls.	Allah gives life and death.
Worship	All worship is for Allah alone.	Salah and Du'a are for Allah.
Names & Attributes	Believe what the Qur'an and Sunnah teach about Allah.	Allah is Ar-Rahman and As-Sami'.

Remember: These categories organize what the Qur'an and Sunnah already teach. Tawheed was not invented by later scholars.

How the Qur'an Teaches Tawheed

1. **Allah**: His Names, Attributes and Actions.
2. **Worship**: Worship Allah alone and reject worship of others.
3. **Obedience**: Follow Allah's commands and avoid what He prohibited.
4. **People of Tawheed**: Their rewards are mentioned.
5. **People of Shirk**: Warnings and consequences are mentioned.

Study evidence: Surah al-Baqarah 2:133 teaches worship of one God. Surah an-Nahl 16:51 teaches that Allah is one God. Surah al-Ma'idah 5:73 teaches that Allah has no partner. These verses show that Allah alone deserves worship.

Tawheed in the Sunnah and the Salaf

Mu'adh ibn Jabal: The Prophet ﷺ told him to begin by calling people to make Allah One. Reference: Sahih al-Bukhari.

Islam is built upon five: The Shahadah begins with worshipping Allah alone. References: Sahih Muslim and Sahih al-Bukhari.

The Salaf: The Companions and early generations learned Tawheed from the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Jaabir ibn Abdullah: He described the Talbiyah as Tawheed because it declares that Allah has no partner. Reference: Sahih Muslim.

Ataa ibn Abi Rabah: He explained faith in Surah al-Ma'idah 5:5 as Tawheed.

Scholars: Imam ad-Darimi and Imam al-Ajuri explained Tawheed through Laa ilaaha illa Allah and certainty in the heart.

Why Study Tawheed?

1. Allah created us to worship Him alone.

2. Worship is not accepted when mixed with Shirk.

3. Tawheed is a cause of entering Jannah.

4. Tawheed increases the reward of good deeds.

5. Tawheed is a cause for sins to be forgiven.

6. Tawheed brings guidance and security.

7. Tawheed brings peace to the heart.

8. Sincere Tawheed is connected to the Prophet's ﷺ intercession by Allah's permission.

Two Conditions for Correct Worship

Condition	Remember
Sincerity	Worship Allah alone.
Following the Prophet ﷺ	Worship Allah the way he taught.

Hadith evidence: A deed that is not based on the Prophet's ﷺ command is rejected. Reference: Sahih Muslim 1718. This shows that a good intention is not enough if the worship was invented.

Shirk

Type	Easy Meaning	Example
Major Shirk	Directing worship to other than Allah. It takes a person outside Islam.	Calling on the dead for something only Allah can do.
Minor Shirk	A serious sin that weakens Tawheed but does not take a person outside Islam.	Showing off in worship or swearing by other than Allah.
Hidden Shirk	Shirk connected to what is hidden in the heart.	Secretly worshipping so people will praise you.

Protection from Shirk: Ibrahim عليه السلام asked Allah to keep him and his sons away from idol worship. Reference: Surah Ibrahim 14:35. The Prophet ﷺ also taught a Du'a asking Allah for protection from knowingly committing Shirk and forgiveness for what is unknown. Reference: Musnad Ahmad.

Bismillah

Meaning: In the Name of Allah.

Four reasons: Follow the Qur'an, follow the Prophet ﷺ, follow the scholars and seek Allah's blessing.

Three Names: Allah, Ar-Rahman and Ar-Raheem.

Easy reminder: Before a good action, Bismillah means we begin with Allah's Name and seek His blessing.

The Right of Allah upon His Servants

Why were we created? To worship Allah alone and not associate anything with Him.

Qur'an: Surah adh-Dhariyat 51:56. Allah created jinn and mankind to worship Him. This shows our purpose is worshipping Allah alone.

Hadith: Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim. Allah's right upon His servants is that they worship Him without Shirk.

What is worship? Every word and action Allah loves, such as Salah, Du'a and sacrifice.

Qur'an: Surah al-An'am 6:162. Prayer and sacrifice are for Allah. This shows worship must be directed to Him.

Hadith Qudsi: Sahih al-Bukhari. The most beloved way to draw near to Allah begins with the duties He made obligatory.

How do we worship Allah? By obeying Allah and following His Messenger ﷺ.

Qur'an: Surah Muhammad 47:33. Believers are commanded to obey Allah and the Messenger ﷺ.

Hadith: Sahih Muslim. A deed not based on the Prophet's ﷺ command is rejected.

Fear and hope: Worship Allah with both fear and hope.

Qur'an: Surah as-Sajdah 32:16. Believers call upon Allah with fear and hope.

Hadith: Sahih, narrated by Abu Dawud. Ask Allah for Paradise and seek His protection from the Fire.

Ihsan: Worship Allah while knowing that He sees you.

Qur'an: Surah ash-Shu'ara 26:218-219. Allah sees His servant.

Hadith: Sahih Muslim. Worship Allah as though you see Him. If you do not see Him, know that He sees you.

Types of Tawheed and Their Benefits

Why were the Messengers sent? To call people to worship Allah alone and reject Shirk.

Qur'an: Surah an-Nahl 16:36. Every nation received a Messenger calling to Allah and away from Taghut.

Hadith: Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim. The Prophets are brothers and their religion is one.

Tawheed ar-Rububiyyah: Allah alone creates and controls all affairs.

Qur'an: Surah al-Fatihah 1:2. Allah is Lord of the worlds.

Hadith: Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim. Allah is the Lord of the heavens and earth.

Tawheed al-Uluhiyyah: Allah alone deserves all worship.

Qur'an: Surah al-Baqarah 2:163. Your God is One God.

Hadith: Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim. The first call is to the Shahadah and worshipping Allah alone.

Names and Attributes: Believe what came in the Qur'an and authentic Sunnah without changing, denying, asking how or comparing Allah to creation.

Qur'an: Surah ash-Shura 42:11. Nothing is like Allah and He is All-Hearing, All-Seeing.

Hadith: Sahih Muslim. The source mentions Allah's descent to the lowest heaven in a way that fits His Majesty.

Where is Allah? Above the heavens, above the Throne.

Qur'an: Surah Ta-Ha 20:5. The Most Merciful rose over the Throne.

Hadith: Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim. The source mentions Allah's Book with Him above the Throne.

Allah is with us: Through His hearing, seeing and knowledge.

Qur'an: Surah Ta-Ha 20:46. Allah says He hears and sees.

Hadith: Sahih Muslim. The source teaches that Allah is Hearing and Near.

Benefit of Tawheed: Guidance, security and forgiveness by Allah's mercy.

Qur'an: Surah al-An'am 6:82. Faith protected from Shirk is connected to security and guidance.

Hadith: Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim. The source mentions Allah's promise concerning the person who does not associate anything with Him.

Conditions for an Action to Be Accepted

Condition	Easy Revision
1. Faith and Tawheed	Believe in Allah and worship Him alone.
2. Sincerity	Do the deed for Allah.
3. Follow the Messenger ﷺ	Do the deed the way he taught.

Evidence: Surah al-Kahf 18:107 supports faith and righteous deeds. Surah az-Zumar 39:2 teaches sincerity. Surah al-Hashr 59:7 teaches following the Messenger ﷺ. Sahih Muslim teaches that an action not based on his command is rejected.

Major Shirk

Greatest sin: Shirk with Allah.

Evidence: Surah Luqman 31:13 calls Shirk a tremendous wrong. Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim teach that making a rival with Allah is the greatest sin.

Major Shirk: Directing an act of worship to other than Allah.

Evidence: Surah an-Nisa 4:36 commands worship of Allah without partners. Sahih al-Bukhari lists Shirk among the greatest major sins.

Shirk in this Ummah: Yes, it can occur.

Evidence: Surah Yusuf 12:106 and a Hasan Sahih narration from at-Tirmidhi warn that belief can be mixed with Shirk.

Calling the dead or absent: Asking them for what only Allah can do is Major Shirk.

Evidence: Surah Yunus 10:106 forbids calling upon what cannot benefit or harm. Sahih al-Bukhari warns about calling upon a rival besides Allah.

Du'a: Du'a is worship.

Evidence: Surah Ghafir 40:60 connects calling upon Allah with worship. A Hasan Sahih narration from at-Tirmidhi states that Du'a is worship.

Do the dead hear every call? No.

Evidence: Surah an-Naml 27:80 and Surah Fatir 35:22 teach that people cannot make the dead hear.

Types of Major Shirk

Seeking rescue: For matters only Allah controls, seek rescue from Allah.

Evidence: Surah an-Nahl 16:20-21; Surah al-Anfal 8:9; Hasan narration from at-Tirmidhi.

Seeking help: For matters only Allah controls, ask Allah.

Evidence: Surah al-Fatihah 1:5; Hasan Sahih narration from at-Tirmidhi.

Living people: They may be asked for things they are able to do.

Evidence: Surah al-Ma'idah 5:2; Sahih Muslim.

Vows: A religious vow is for Allah alone.

Evidence: Surah Aal Imran 3:35; Sahih al-Bukhari.

Sacrifice: Sacrifice as worship is for Allah alone.

Evidence: Surah al-Kawthar 108:2; Sahih Muslim.

Tawaf: Tawaf as worship is around the Ka'bah.

Evidence: Surah al-Hajj 22:29; Sahih narration from Ibn Majah.

Sihr: Sorcery is described as disbelief in the source.

Evidence: Surah al-Baqarah 2:102; Sahih Muslim.

Fortune-tellers: Do not believe claims of knowledge of the unseen.

Evidence: Surah an-Naml 27:65; Sahih narration from Ahmad.

The unseen: Allah alone knows the unseen by Himself. He may reveal some to chosen Messengers.

Evidence: Surah al-Jinn 72:26-27; Hasan narration from at-Tabarani.

Threads and rings: Do not believe objects have supernatural power to heal.

Evidence: Surah al-An'am 6:17; Sahih narration from al-Hakim.

Amulets: Do not depend on amulets for supernatural protection.

Evidence: Surah al-An'am 6:17; Sahih narration from Ahmad.

Judgement: The source gives a serious warning about believing laws against Allah's judgement are allowed in its place.

Evidence: Surah al-Ma'idah 5:44; Hasan narration from Ibn Majah and others.

Whispers: If Satan whispers 'Who created Allah?', seek refuge in Allah and stop following the whisper.

Evidence: Surah Fussilat 41:36; Bukhari, Muslim, Ahmad and Abu Dawud.

Harm of Major Shirk: Protect Tawheed and repent from Major Shirk before death.

Evidence: Surah al-Ma'idah 5:72; Sahih Muslim.

Good deeds with Major Shirk: The source teaches that deeds do not benefit the person who dies upon Major Shirk.

Evidence: Surah al-An'am 6:88; Sahih Muslim.

Minor Shirk and Its Types

Riya: Showing off in worship is an example of Minor Shirk.

Evidence: Surah al-Kahf 18:110 and a Sahih narration from Ahmad warn against showing off in worship.

Speech: Say 'What Allah wills, then so-and-so wills' rather than joining the two wills equally.

Hadith: Sahih, narrated by Abu Dawud.

Swearing: Swear by Allah or remain silent.

Evidence: Surah at-Taghabun 64:7; Sahih narration from Ahmad; Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim.

Tawassul and Asking for Intercession

Type	Easy Revision
Allowed	Call upon Allah through His Names and Attributes, righteous deeds or ask a living person to make Du'a.
Forbidden	Do not call upon the dead for matters only Allah can do.
Status of the Messenger ﷺ	The source describes using his status in this form as an innovation and points to the Companions asking living people for Du'a.

Evidence: Surah al-A'raf 7:180 teaches calling upon Allah by His Names. Surah al-Ma'idah 5:35 teaches seeking nearness to Allah. Surah Yunus 10:106 forbids calling upon what cannot benefit or harm. The source also cites Ahmad, Muslim and the cave story.

Does Du'a need a human intermediary? No. Call upon Allah directly.

Evidence: Surah al-Baqarah 2:186 says Allah is near. Sahih Muslim teaches that Allah is Hearing and Near.

Ask a living person for Du'a? Yes.

Evidence: Surah Muhammad 47:19 and a Hasan Sahih Gharib narration from at-Tirmidhi.

Role of the Messenger ﷺ: To convey Allah's message.

Evidence: Surah al-Ma'idah 5:67; Sahih Muslim.

The Messenger's ﷺ intercession: Ask Allah for it because all intercession belongs to Allah.

Evidence: Surah az-Zumar 39:44; at-Tirmidhi; Sahih Muslim.

Worldly intercession: A living person may intercede in a lawful worldly matter.

Evidence: Surah an-Nisa 4:85; Sahih narration from Abu Dawud.

Praise of the Messenger ﷺ: Love and respect him without exaggeration.

Evidence: Surah al-Kahf 18:110; Sahih al-Bukhari.

Jihad, Walaa' and Judgement

Jihad: The source describes it as striving in Allah's path with wealth, personal effort and speech.

Evidence: Surah at-Tawbah 9:41; Sahih narration from Abu Dawud.

Walaa': Love and support.

Evidence: Surah at-Tawbah 9:71; Sahih Muslim.

Awliya: The source warns against taking disbelievers as awliya.

Evidence: Surah al-Ma'idah 5:51; Sahih narration from Ahmad.

Wali of Allah: A believer with faith and Taqwa.

Evidence: Surah Yunus 10:62-63; Sahih narration from Ahmad.

Judgement: Religious judgement returns to the Qur'an and authentic Hadith.

Evidence: Surah al-Ma'idah 5:49; Sahih Muslim.

Acting upon the Qur'an and Hadith

Why was the Qur'an revealed?: To be followed and acted upon.

Evidence: Surah al-A'raf 7:3; Sahih narration from Ahmad.

Authentic Hadith: It must be followed.

Evidence: Surah al-Hashr 59:7; Sahih narration from Ahmad.

Qur'an without Hadith?: No. The Sunnah explains and is followed with the Qur'an.

Evidence: Surah an-Nahl 16:44; Sahih narration from Abu Dawud and others.

Human statements: Do not place a person's statement above Allah and His Messenger ﷺ.

Evidence: Surah al-Hujurat 49:1; Sahih narration from at-Tabarani.

Disagreement: Return to the Qur'an and authentic Sunnah.

Evidence: Surah an-Nisa 4:59; Sahih narration from Ahmad.

Love Allah and His Messenger ﷺ: Show it by obedience and following the Messenger ﷺ.

Evidence: Surah Aal Imran 3:31; Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim.

Qadar: Do not stop working because of Qadar.

Evidence: Surah al-Layl 92:5-10; Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim.

Sunnah and Bid'ah

Good Bid'ah in religion? No.

Evidence: Surah al-Ma'idah 5:3 and a Sahih narration from Ahmad and others teach that the religion is complete and religious innovations are misguidance.

Bid'ah: Adding to or taking away from the religion without Allah's permission.

Evidence: Surah ash-Shura 42:21; Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim.

Good Sunnah: The source teaches that beginning a good Sunnah in Islam brings reward to the person and those who follow it.

Hadith: Reference in Part 1: Sahih al-Bukhari.

Victory: The source connects victory with returning to the Qur'an and Sunnah, Tawheed, avoiding Shirk and obedience to Allah.

Evidence: Surah Muhammad 47:7 and Surah an-Nur 24:55.

The Accepted Supplication

Easy meaning: O Allah, I am Your servant. I am under Your control and Your decree is just. I ask You by all Your Names to make the Qur'an the spring of my heart, the light of my chest and the remover of my sadness and worry.

Hadith: The Prophet ﷺ taught that Allah removes worry and sadness and replaces them with relief and happiness. Reference: Sahih, narrated by Ahmad.

Final Quick Review

Tawheed: Single out Allah alone.

Correct worship: Sincerity + following the Prophet ﷺ.

Shirk: Learn it so you can recognize it and stay away from it.

Evidence: Return to the Qur'an and authentic Sunnah.