
UNDERSTANDING THE *SHAHAADAH*: CONDITION 1 - KNOWLEDGE: AFFIRMATION & NEGATION
[WORKSHEET 1]

Q1: When we say the "conditions" of the *Shahaadah*, what do we mean by the word "conditions?"

"Conditions" (shuroot) is the plural of "condition" (shart). Linguistically it means something that is "a sign".

Islamically it means those particular affairs, which are an absolute obligation upon every individual (who has the burden of responsibility upon them) to know, understand and practice so that they can become a person of *Tawhid* outwardly (in their actions) and inwardly (in their heart & *Aqeedah*).

Q2: How many conditions are there?

There are 7 conditions (*Al-ilm, Al-Yaqeen, Al-Ikhlaas, Al-Sidq, Al-Mahabbah, Al-Inqiad, Al-Qubool*).

Q3: What is meant by knowledge of "affirmation" and "negation" in regards to the *Shahaadah*?

In regards to the *Shahaadah*, the first half comprises of the negation of worship to anything except Allah and the second half affirms worship to Allah.

The *Shahaadah* is therefore based upon 2 pillars affirmation and negation. It can only be properly understood and practiced with these two conditions in place i.e. if any of these pillars are missing the *Shahaadah* is incorrect.

We must have knowledge that *Tawhid* can only be established by both affirming that Allah has the right to be worshiped, that he is the one who deserves the worship alone and negating nothing else has the right to be worshiped.

Q4: Is one sufficient without the other? I.e. affirmation alone without negation and vice versa?

No, as without these two pillars there is no *Tawhid* i.e. to make something one and unique.

Only through affirmation and negation can you bring about the oneness & uniqueness of Allah (*Tawhid*).

Q5: Mention five proofs from the Qur'an that ALL the previous Prophets and messengers called their people to this *Tawhid* based upon affirmation and negation.

1. Surah Muhammad (47):19

2. Surah Al-Anbiya (21):25

3. Surah Al-A'raf (7):59

4. Surah Al-Nahl (16):36

5. Surah An-Nisa (4):36

Q6: Is the translation "There is no God but Allah" correct for the *Shahaadah*? Explain why.

No, as the translation "There is no God but Allah" only refers to Allah being the creator, provider and sustainer there is no affirmation of worship to Allah and no negation of worship to other than him. Thus it is incomplete.

A more accurate & complete translation would be "There is no other deity worthy of worship in truth except Allah" which incorporates both Negation "There is no other deity worthy of worship in truth" & Affirmation "except Allah".

Q7: Mention eight ways that aid a person in understanding and having knowledge of the *Shahaadah*.

1. Knowing the names and attributes of Allah. (this is the highest form of knowledge)

2. Understanding the *Ruboobiyah* of Allah i.e. to single out Allah with those actions that are specific to Allah.

3. Knowing that every blessing hidden or open, religious and worldly is purely from Allah. The greatest of those being guidance to Islam.

4. Knowing the reward that is given to the *Awliyah* of Allah i.e. the people of *Tawhid* & the punishment given to the enemies of Allah i.e. those who oppose the *Shahaadah* and oppose *Tawhid*.

5. Knowing the various other types of deities the mushrikeen have claimed to worship as dieties in the past, in order to understand how futile the worship of these dieties were and how clearly only Allah therefore deserves worship.

6. Knowing that all of the books (revelation's of Allah) i.e. previous books that were revealed in their original form, all spoke about the *Tawhid* of Allah.

7. Knowing that the greatest of mankind i.e. the messengers and prophets, who were of perfect conduct, minds, judgement and knowledge all called to the *Tawhid* of Allah.

8. Knowing the proofs (signs) that Allah Has placed in creation, within the universe and ourselves. These are from the greatest of signs that indicate the oneness of Allah.

Q8: What is promised to those who die upon Tawhid?

Jannah (paradise) is promised to those who die upon *Tawhid* i.e. those who not only know and have knowledge of the shahaada but those who also act upon it.

Hadith of `Uthman (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:
Whomsoever dies knowing that there is no other deity worthy of worship in truth except Allah enters paradise. (Sahih Muslim)
