

## Why Do You Say That Which You Do Not Do?

Tafseer Benefit from Shaykh Abdur Rahman as-Sa'adee

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لِمَ تَقُولُونَ مَا لَا تَفْعَلُونَ

'O you who believe! Why do you say that which you do not do?' [Surat as-Saf, Ayah 2]

Shaykh Abur Rahmaan bin Nasir as-Sa'adee, *rahimahullah*, mentions in his well-known *tafseer*:

“Meaning: Why do you say the good and encourage it, while sometimes praising yourselves with it, and you do not act with that (the good you are calling to) while you forbid what is evil. And perhaps yourselves are far from that, and you contaminate (yourselves) with that which you are purified by. So, is it befitting that the believers under these circumstances are censured? Or (is it) from greater abhorrence with Allah that the servant says that which he doesn't do? And for this reason it is appropriate that the one commanding with good be the first of the people to (respond to the) initiative, and for the sake of prohibiting the evil (it is appropriate) that he be distant from the people.

Allah the Most High says:

أَتَأْمُرُونَ النَّاسَ بِالْبِرِّ وَتَنْسَوْنَ أَنفُسَكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ تَتْلُونَ الْكِتَابَ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ

'Enjoin you Al-Birr (piety and righteousness and each and every act of obedience to Allah) on the people and you forget (to practise it) yourselves, while you recite the Scripture [the Taurat (Torah)]! Have you then no sense?' [Surat al-Baqara: Ayah 44]

And the saying of *Shu'aib*, 'alaihi salaam, to his people:

وَمَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ أُخَالِفَكُمْ إِلَىٰ مَا أَنهَيْكُمْ عَنْهُ

'I wish not, in contradiction to you, to do that which I forbid you.'" [Surah Hud: Ayah

**Translation:** Abu Mohamed Abd Kareem Hagedorn

**Checking and Revision:** Abu Sulayman Muhammad Abdul Azeem

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