

Surah Al Fatihah

Why is Surah Al Fatiha important?

What the Qur'an ultimately stands for.

Some other names of Surah Fatiha:

Umm al Qur'an, Umm Al Kitab

The foundation, the core

The rest of the Qur'an bears the essence of Surah Fatiha

What is Surah Al Fatiha about?

- **Surah Fatiha has 2 parts:**

Part 1 = Worshiping Allah

Part 2 = Seeking help from Allah

Gives us a structure of how to connect with Allah, Make du'a and achieve our aim.

- Allah responds to each verse in Surah Fatiha! It's a conversation:
- "Invoke me and I will respond to you" (40:60)
- Hadith Qudsi – "I have divided the Salah between Me and between My slave."

Allah is showing us how to
achieve our aim.

What is our aim?

Part 1 – Worshipping Allah

Bismillah hir rahman nir raheem

Ayah 1. In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful

- A beautiful way to begin everything!
- Rahman = Intense, specialized mercy.
- Raheem = Continually kind, continually merciful.

Think of some examples of how Allah is Ar-Rahmaan and Ar-Raheem in your own life?

Ayah 1

الْعَالَمِينَ

(of) the worlds.

رَبِّ

the Lord

لِلَّهِ

(be) to Allah,

الْحَمْدُ

(All) the praises
and thanks



Ayah 2

- ‘All praise is due to Allah’.
 - Who is Allah?
- The One who created and is in full control of everything that exists (‘Worlds’).

“Hamd”

2 Meanings:

Praise + Thanks

The previous Ayah has explained why we need to praise Allah.
Now, why are we thanking Him?

الرَّحِيمِ

the Most Merciful

الرَّحْمَنِ

the Most Gracious

Ayah 3

Imam Ghazali:

‘So, when you say, “**Most Beneficent Most Merciful,**” let there be present in your heart every kind of His favors, that His mercy may be evident to you, and your hope may be raised by it.’

Challenge: can you picture something every time you use the word “Hamd” or mention Allah’s mercy?



The Mercy of Allah

We should never lose hope in the mercy of Allah!

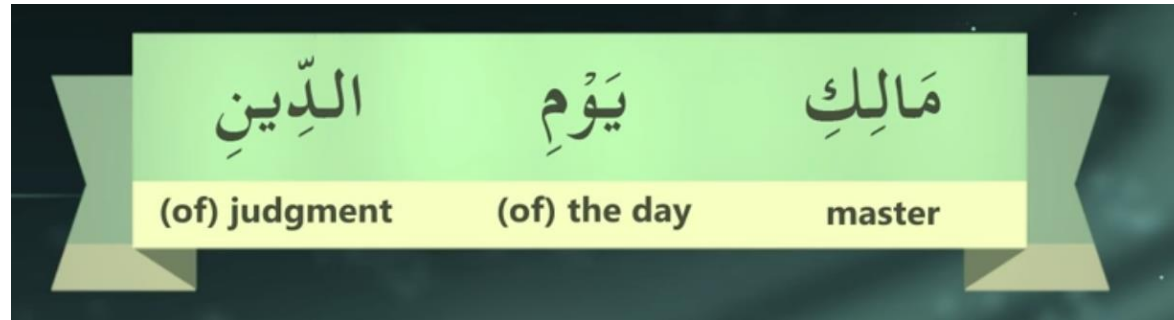
Allah shows His mercy through His kindness and love and through His severity .

“Good” and “Bad” situations are all Good! They are all from Allah’s love. What lens are you looking through?

Modern idea of ‘Positive thinking’

Positive thinking about Allah!

- “How wonderful is the affair of the believer, for his affairs are all good, and this applies to no one but the believer. If **something good** happens to him, he is **thankful** for it and that is good for him. If **something bad** happens to him, he **bears it** with **patience** and that is good for him.” (Narrated by Muslim, 2999).



Ayah 4

Reminds us of our accountability 5x a day - we're going to be asked about all of our actions.

Imagine exam results day - how do you prepare?
How mean are your mark-schemes and examiners?

Allah is The Most Merciful Examiner!
– hope
What are we doing to prepare?

Prayer as a reminder and 'dress rehearsal' for the Day of Judgement.

Part 2 – Asking Allah for Help

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

we ask for help and You (alone) we worship You (alone)



Ayah 5

Imam Ghazali:

‘By saying, “**And from You alone, we seek help.**” Be assured that your obedience was made easy only by His will...

...He helped you to obey Him, and employed you for His religious service, and made you worthy for communion with Him, for, if He had denied you His assistance, you would be one of the outcasts, along with Shaytan the accursed.’

Our Two Purposes:

What is our first purpose?

1- 'Ibadah' = adoration, obedience, worship, submission.

3 kinds of worship - all are combined in Salah!

- Heart
- Tongue
- Body

The first instruction we are given in the Quran:

[2:21] Oh Mankind! **Worship** your Sustainer Who has created you, so that you may remain conscious of Him.

**Developing
closeness
with Allah**

Each makes
the other
grow!



**Worshipping
Allah**

What is our second purpose?

2- Asking for help

Allah loves it when we ask Him for help - again and again!

Allah is teaching us how to reach out to Him: Praise, then ask for help

2 links to the start of the surah:

- Lord of the worlds – dependency
- Allah's mercy

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

the straight

(to) the path,

guide us



Ayah 6 – the most important du'a.

- Hidayah – our map to this world
 - **Again, we are entirely dependent on Allah**
- Why doesn't this ayah say directly, "give us Paradise"?
 - Prayer is an act of worship *in this world*, so we are asking for guidance *in this world* for the sake of our hereafter.
- When you draw closer to The Creator, His creation draw closer to you.

Ayah 6

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ

on them

You (have)
bestowed favor

of those

The path

غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

Those who go
astray

(and) nor of

on them

(of) those who earned
(Your) wrath

not



Ayah 7 –
description of
3 groups of
people.

Who are our role models?

What company do we keep?

Importance of seeking knowledge to understand why Allah has bestowed His favor upon the righteous, and how we can become more like them.

Avoiding the wrong role models:

1. Those who have earned Your wrath/
severity

*Knowingly disobeying Allah with knowledge
– made a choice.*

2. Those who have gone astray

Those who are unknowingly lost.

Unknowingly lost...

Importance of learning!

Links to the rest of the surah: “Guide us to the straight path” – we need a map!

Allah guides us but we also need to **take action.**

Learning about our good role models.

Hope in the mercy of Allah – we are dependent and ultimately in his power.

Balance between love and mercy – How much of this surah focuses on Allah's mercy and how much on his severity?

Surah Al Fatiha is a conversation

- All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds
- The most Gracious, the most Merciful
- Master of the Day of Judgement
- You alone we worship and You alone we ask for help
- Keep us on the straight path
- The path of those who You have bestowed Your favor on, not the path of those who have earned Your anger or who have gone astray
- ‘My worshipper has praised me’
- ‘My worshipper has exalted me’ (mentioned my glory)
- ‘My worshipper has glorified me’
- ‘That is between me and my worshipper and for my worshipper is whatever he asks’
- ‘This is for My worshipper, and My worshipper will have what he has asked for’