

Ikhlas, the secret of accepted deeds

Without ikhlas, the largest deed weighs nothing. With it, the smallest deed outweighs mountains. How to test your sincerity.

CENTREPIECE Surah al-Bayyinah 98:5, Sahih Muslim 1907

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. Allah accepts only what was for Him

Allah says in the hadith qudsi: I am the most free of need from association. Whoever does a deed associating someone else with Me, I leave him and his shirk (Muslim 2985). The deed done for the audience is given to the audience.

2. Three tests of ikhlas

Would you still do this deed if no one ever knew? Would you do it without complaint if no one ever thanked you? Would you do it the same way alone as you do it in public? Imam al-Ghazali named these as the diagnostic.

3. Salaf and the hidden deed

Many of the salaf would cry when their good deeds became known. They considered fame for a deed a sign that its reward had already been spent. The pious sought to hide their salah at night the way some today seek to broadcast it.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to ikhlas, the secret of accepted deeds.

Suggested closing: Allahumma ij'al amalana khalisan li-wajhik, O Allah, make our deeds purely for Your Face.

PREPARATION NOTES

1. Read every cited verse or hadith in full before using it.
2. Add one example your own congregation will recognise.
3. Check questions of fiqh and recognised disagreement with a qualified local scholar.

Prepared by Sumit Sharma for Barakah Life. Updated 2026-09-03.