

## Lesson 2: ISLAMIC ‘AQIDAH: A SUMMARY OF ‘IMAAN

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As Muslims, we are required to have certain beliefs. Every Muslim must believe in the following:

1. *Tahwid*: belief in the attributes of Allah and His Attributes.
2. The angels, as Allah’s creation from light and His servants.
3. The book of Allah ﷻ: the revelation Allah ﷻ sent through His messengers
4. The prophets and messengers of Allah ﷻ: His chosen people through whom He sent His messages to humankind.
5. The *Akhirah*, (the hereafter): The life after death and the Day of Judgment.
6. The *Qadr*: Allah’s power over His creation.
7. The meaning of Islam and the basic duties of a Muslim.

All of this is a part of a Muslim’s ‘*Aqidah* (faith) and is called ‘*Iman* (Belief).

Keep in mind these are only the basic beliefs. They are the foundation of ‘*Iman*. To be a complete Muslim, you need to know more about Islam. As you study the remaining sections of this book and other books in the Program of Islamic Studies, you will learn more about the actual practices required to live as a true Muslim.

As Muslims, we have a lot to learn. The Qur’an tells us clearly:

أَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ﴿١﴾

*Read in the name of your Lord Who created you*

*(Al-Alaq 96:1)*

Allah ﷻ, in His mercy, has provided us with all the information we need. We just have to seek it, learn it and live by it. The answers we are looking for can be found in the following resources:

1. The message of the Qur’an, so we can begin to understand Allah’s سبحانه و تعالی final revelation.
2. The *Sirah* (biography) of Rasulullah ﷺ, so we can learn from his example.
3. The *Ahadith*, so we can understand the words and follow the actions of Rasulullah ﷺ
4. The stories of the prophets and some famous Muslims, to learn from the great and noble things they did.
5. *Aqidah and Fiqh*: so that you may believe in Allah سبحانه و تعالی and worship Him in the correct manner and to understand His Laws.
6. Arabic Language, so that we can directly study the Qur’an and Islamic texts in Arabic and teach them to others.
7. *Akhlaq and Tahdhib*, so that we may learn the proper Islamic behavior.

Allah سبحانه و تعالی has given us the intelligence to choose between good and evil, and he will reward or punish us according to our belief and actions. Through our efforts, we can become worthy of His love and earn a place in His *Jannah*. He reminds us in the Qur’an:

وَأَنْ لَّيْسَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ إِلَّا مَا سَعَى

*Verily, for man there is nothing but what he strives for*

*(An-Najm 53:39)*