

Believers Defined

Surah 8, al-Anfal, Median 75

The Quran's Text & Yusuf Ali's translation:

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَجِلَّتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ... ^{up}

8:2. **For, believers are those who,**

- when God is mentioned, feel a tremor in their hearts,

...وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُهُ زَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا...

- and when they hear His signs rehearsed, find their faith strengthened,

...وَعَلَى رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ ﴿٢﴾

- and put (all) their trust in their Lord.

Transliteration *Innamal mu'minu_nal lazina iza_ zukiralla_hu wajilat qulu_buhum wa iza_ tuliyaat 'alaihim a_ya_tuhu_ za_dathum ima_naw wa'ala_ rabbihim yatawakkalu_n(a)*

الَّذِينَ يُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ ﴿٣﴾ ^{up}

8:3. - **Who establish regular prayers**

- and spend (freely) out of the gifts We have given them for sustenance:

Transliteration *Allazina yuqimu_nas sala_ta wa mimma_ razaqna_hum yunfiqu_n(a).*

[Ali's comments: 1180. Sustenance: again in both the literal and the metaphorical sense. The object is to warn off from the love of booty and worldly wealth. Why do we want these? To all true Believers God gives generous sustenance in any case, in both senses, but especially in the spiritual sense, for it is coupled with forgiveness and grades of dignity before God mentioned in the next verse.]

أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ حَقًّا... ^{up}

8:4. Such in truth are the believers:

...لَهُمْ دَرَجَاتٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَمَغْفِرَةٌ وَرِزْقٌ كَرِيمٌ ﴿٤﴾

they have grades of dignity with their Lord, and forgiveness, and generous sustenance.

Transliteration *Ula_'ika humul mu'minu_na haqqa_(n),lahum daraja_tun 'inda rabbihim wa magfiratuw wa rizqun karim(un).*

Other translations:

Muhammad Pickthall

8:2 They only are the (true) believers whose hearts feel fear when Allah is mentioned, and when the revelations of Allah are recited unto them they increase their faith, and who trust in their Lord;

8:3 Who establish worship and spend of that We have bestowed on them.

8: 4 Those are they who are in truth believers. [For them are grades \(of honor\) with their Lord](#), and pardon, and a bountiful provision.

Muhammad Asad

8:2 Believers are only they whose hearts tremble with awe whenever God is mentioned, and whose faith is strengthened whenever His messages are conveyed unto them,; and who in their Sustainer place their trust –

(8:3) those who are constant in prayer and spend on others out of what We provide for them as sustenance 4

(8:4) it is they, they who are truly believers! Theirs shall be great dignity in their Sustainer's sight, and forgiveness of sins, and a most excellent sustenance. 5

Asad's comments:

1 – The “nafl” (of which “anfal” is the plural) denotes, in its purely linguistic sense, “an accretion or addition received beyond one’s due” or “something given in excess of one’s obligation” (from which latter meaning the term “salat al-nafl” – i.e., a “supererogatory prayer” – is derived). In its plural form “anfal” which occurs in the Quran only in the above verse, this word signifies “spoils of war”,an incidental accession above and beyond anything that a mujahid (“a fighter in God’s cause”) is entitled to expect. The statement that “all spoils of war belong to God and the Apostle” implies that no

individual warrior has a claim to any war booty: it is public property, to be utilized or distributed by the government of an Islamic stateFor further details relating to the division of the spoils of war, see verse 41 of this surah.

4 – see surah 2, note 4

5 – I.e., in paradise. According to Razi, however, the “most excellent sustenance” is a metonym for “the spiritual raptures arising from the knowledge of God, the love of Him, and the self-immersion (istighraq) in worshipping Him”. In Razi’s interpretation, this expression refers to the spiritual reward of faith in this world.