

The concept of Da'Wa (Inviting to Allah) BS Foad, MD 2016

1-It is our duty as Muslims to invite others to Allah, following the example of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) "Say: "This is my way, I invite to Allah with conviction and clear insight, I and those who follow me."

Youseff 12: 108. Since the Qur'an is God's last divine revelation and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is God's last messenger to mankind, then it is **our duty to inform others and explain God's message**. If our Islam changed our behavior and made us better human beings, then **we want others to benefit as well**.

2-There are qualifications and characteristics for those inviting to Allah

-Having strong faith, Taqwa and being sincere: "O you who believe be mindful of Allah, and believe in His messenger, He will bestow on you a double portion of His mercy, and will provide for you a light that illuminates your way, and He will forgive you, for Allah is often-forgiving, most-merciful." Al-Hadeed 57: 28

- knowing the Qur'an, Sunnah (tradition) and Seerah (life story) of prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and have **proper understanding and wisdom:** "Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching, and argue with them only in ways that are best." An-Nahl 16: 125; "And that those on whom knowledge has been bestowed may learn that the Qur'an is the truth from your Lord, and that they may believe therein, and their hearts may submit to it, for Allah guides those who believe to His straight way" Al-Hajj 22: 54

-Being Truthful: "O you who believe be mindful of Allah and be among those who are truthful" At-Tawba 9: 119

-Kind, caring, forgiving and merciful: "There has come to you a messenger from amongst yourselves. It grieves him that you should suffer; ardently anxious is he over you; to the believers he is most kind and merciful." At-Tawba 9: 128; "It is through the mercy of Allah that you are gentle with them; were you severe or harsh-hearted they would have dispersed from about you. So pass over their faults, and ask for Allah's forgiveness for them, and consult them in your mutual affairs." Al-Imran 3: 159.

-Patiently persevering and never giving up: "We know indeed the grief their words cause you. It is not you they reject: it is the signs of Allah which the wicked deny. Rejected were the messengers before you. They bore their rejection and persecution with patience and constancy until our aid did reach them." Al-Ana'am 6: 33 & 34.

-Applying what they say in their character & behavior. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is our example to follow

-Learning proper methods of communication: and talking to people in a way they can understand and relate to it. "My Lord make my task easy and remove the impediment from my speech, that they may understand what I say" Ta Ha 20: 26-28

-Presenting Islamic solutions to current problems and challenges, like poverty, social injustice, drugs and lack of morals: "In order that it does not become a circuit for the rich among you" Al-Hashr 59: 7

3-We should invite everyone to Allah. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) invited Muslims, Jews, Christians, Pagans, common people, kings and leaders to Islam.. **The reaction of people to the Qur'an varies:** some do not want to hear it and turn away; others may listen; while others may appreciate the truth and realize it is God's divine revelation: "When they hear what was sent down to the messenger you will see their eyes overflowing with tears for they recognize the truth; they pray: "Our Lord we believe, write us among the witnesses." Al-Ma'ida 5: 83.

We cannot guide, only Allah guides, and He knows who is ready to receive guidance: "You will not be able to guide everyone you love, but Allah guides whom He will, and He knows those who receive guidance" Al-Qasas 28: 56

4-We should never force our beliefs on others. Everyone has the right to accept or reject faith, hence he is responsible and accountable to God: "Let him who will believe, and let him who will reject faith." Al-Kahf 18: 29