

Those who are unsuccessful are those who have gone astray. Islam is a religion of progress and success. God has provided Islam to individuals and communities so that they all may achieve growth and success in life. Those who, according to the divine plan, cultivate their talents will be guided by God to His paradise, and He will illuminate the path to paradise for them in this world. Those who do not use their talents, misuse them, or use them minimally will be guided to hell, and He will show them the path to hell from this world. Success is attainable through planning and acting according to the plan. Every success in this world and the hereafter belongs to God. Those who receive special help from God, no one can overcome them, and if God wills someone to be wretched, no one can help them.

Abdullah ibn al-Fadl al-Hashimi said: I asked Abu Abdullah Ja'far ibn Muhammad (peace be upon him) about the words of Allah Almighty, 'Whomever Allah guides, he is rightly guided; and whomever He leads astray, you will never find for him a protecting guide.' He said, 'Indeed, Allah, Blessed and Exalted, leads the oppressors astray on the Day of Resurrection from entering His abode of honor, which is paradise, and guides the people of faith and righteous deeds to His paradise as He said, "And Allah leads the oppressors astray and does whatever He wills." And Allah Almighty said, "Indeed, those who have believed and done righteous deeds - their Lord will guide them because of their faith; beneath them rivers will flow in gardens of pleasure."

I then asked him about Allah's saying, "And my success is not but through Allah," and His saying, "If Allah should aid you, no one can overcome you; but if He should forsake you, who is there that can aid you after Him?" He said, 'When a servant does what Allah Almighty has commanded him to do in obedience, his action is in accordance with the command of Allah Almighty, and thus the servant is called successful. But if the servant intends to commit any sin against Allah, and Allah, Blessed and Exalted, intervenes between him and that sin and he refrains from it, then his refraining from it is due to Allah's success. And when Allah does not intervene between him and the sin until he commits it, then He has forsaken him and did not aid him or grant him success.'

Abdullah ibn Fadl al-Hashimi asked Imam Sadiq about the words of Allah, the Exalted and Glorious: "Whomever Allah guides, he is rightly guided; and whomever He leads astray, you will never find for him a protecting guide." The Imam said, "Indeed, Allah, the Most High and Glorious, on the Day of Resurrection, leads the oppressors away from entering His abode of honor, which is paradise, and guides the people of faith and righteous deeds to His paradise, as Allah has said, 'Allah leads the oppressors astray and does whatever He wills.' Allah Almighty has also said, 'Indeed, those who have believed and done righteous deeds - their Lord will guide them because of their faith; beneath them rivers will flow in gardens of pleasure.'"