

To Teach and Propagate the Faith After the Ascension of Its Founder

Bahá'u'lláh, Abdu'l-Baha

Partial translation



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*"Be not dismayed, O peoples of the world, when the daystar of My beauty is set, and the heaven of My tabernacle is concealed from your eyes. Arise to further My Cause, and to exalt My Word amongst men. We are with you at all times, and shall strengthen you through the power of truth. We are truly almighty. Whoso hath recognized Me will arise and serve Me with such determination that the powers of earth and heaven shall be unable to defeat his purpose."*¹

*"Center your energies in the propagation of the Faith of God."*²

*"Teach thou the Cause of God with an utterance which will cause the bushes to be enkindled, and the call 'Verily, there is no God but Me, the Almighty, the Unconstrained' to be raised therefrom. Say: Human utterance is an essence which aspireth to exert its influence and needeth moderation. As to its influence, this is conditional upon refinement which in turn is dependent upon hearts which are detached and pure. As to its moderation, this hath to be combined with tact and wisdom as prescribed in the Holy Scriptures and Tablets"*³

*"The wise are they that speak not unless they obtain a hearing, even as the cup-bearer, who proffereth not his cup till he findeth a seeker, and the lover who crieth not out from the depths of his heart until he gazeth upon the beauty of his beloved."*⁴

*"It followeth, therefore, that rendering assistance unto God, in this day, doth not and shall never consist in contending or disputing with any soul; nay rather, what is preferable in the sight of God is that the cities of men's hearts, which are ruled by the hosts of self and passion, should be subdued by the sword of utterance, of wisdom and of understanding. Thus, whoso seeketh to assist God must, before all else, conquer, with the sword of inner meaning and explanation, the city of his own heart and guard it from the remembrance of all save God, and only then set out to subdue the cities of the hearts of others."*⁵

1. Baha'u'llah, The Most Holy Book, para 38

2. Baha'u'llah, Gleaning from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, no. XCVI

3. Baha'u'llah, Tablet of Wisdom

4. Baha'u'llah, Persian Hidden Words, no. 36



*"Proclaim unto men what He, Who speaketh the truth and is the Bearer of the Trust of God, hath bidden thee observe. My glory be with thee, O thou that callest upon My name, whose eyes are directed towards My court, and whose tongue uttereth the praise of thy Lord, the Beneficent."*⁶

*"Warn and acquaint the people, O Servant, with the things We have sent down unto Thee, and let the fear of no one dismay Thee, and be Thou not of them that waver. The day is approaching when God will have exalted His Cause and magnified His testimony in the eyes of all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth. Place, in all circumstances, Thy whole trust in Thy Lord, and fix Thy gaze upon Him, and turn away from all them that repudiate His truth. Let God, Thy Lord, be Thy sufficing succorer and helper. We have pledged Ourselves to secure Thy triumph upon earth and to exalt Our Cause above all men, though no king be found who would turn his face towards Thee."*⁷

*"What "oppression" is more grievous than that a soul seeking the truth, and wishing to attain unto the knowledge of God, should know not where to go for it and from whom to seek it?"*⁸

*"If any man were to arise to defend, in his writings, the Cause of God against its assailants, such a man, however inconsiderable his share, shall be so honored in the world to come that the Concourse on high would envy his glory. No pen can depict the loftiness of his station, neither can any tongue describe its splendor. For whosoever standeth firm and steadfast in this holy, this glorious, and exalted Revelation, such power shall be given him as to enable him to face and withstand all that is in heaven and on earth. Of this God is Himself a witness."*⁹

*"If ye find one athirst, give him to drink from the chalice of Kawtha and Tasneen; and if ye find one endowed with an attentive ear, read unto him the verses of God, the mighty, the merciful, the compassionate! Unloose the tongue with excellent utterance, then admonish the people if ye find them advancing unto the sanctuary of God; otherwise abandon them unto themselves and forsake them in the abyss of hell. Beware lest ye scatter the pearls of inner significance before every barren, dumb one. Verily, the blind are deprived of witnessing the lights and are unable to distinguish between the stone and the holy, precious pearl. Verily, wert thou to read the most mighty, wonderful verses to the stone for a thousand years, will it understand, or will they take any effect therein? No! by thy Lord, the merciful, the clement! If thou readest all the verses of God unto the deaf, will he hear a single letter? No! Verily, by the beauty, the mighty, the ancient!"*¹⁰

5. Baha'u'llah, Lawh-i-Nasirid'd-Din Shah

6. Baha'u'llah, Gleaning from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, no. C

7. Baha'u'llah, Gleaning from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, no. CXVI

8. Baha'u'llah, Kitab-i-Iqan

9. Baha'u'llah, Gleaning from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, CLIV

10. Baha'u'llah, Baha'i World Faith, pp. 207

*"The things He hath reserved for Himself are the cities of men's hearts, that He may cleanse them from all earthly defilements, and enable them to draw nigh unto the hallowed Spot which the hands of the infidel can never profane. Open, O people, the city of the human heart with the key of your utterance. Thus have We, according to a pre-ordained measure, prescribed unto you your duty."*¹¹

*"If they arise to teach My Cause, they must let the breath of Him Who is the Unconstrained, stir them and must spread it abroad on the earth with high resolve, with minds that are wholly centered in Him, and with hearts that are completely detached from and independent of all things, and with souls that are sanctified from the world and its vanities. It behoveth them to choose as the best provision for their journey reliance upon God, and to clothe themselves with the love of their Lord, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious. If they do so, their words shall influence their hearers."*¹²

*"Whoso ariseth among you to teach the Cause of his Lord, let him, before all else, teach his own self, that his speech may attract the hearts of them that hear him. Unless he teacheth his own self, the words of his mouth will not influence the heart of the seeker. Take heed, O people, lest ye be of them that give good counsel to others but forget to follow it themselves. The words of such as these, and beyond the words the realities of all things, and beyond these realities the angels that are nigh unto God, bring against them the accusation of falsehood... Say: Teach ye the Cause of God, O people of Bahá, for God hath prescribed unto every one the duty of proclaiming His Message, and regardeth it as the most meritorious of all deeds. Such a deed is acceptable only when he that teacheth the Cause is already a firm believer in God, the Supreme Protector, the Gracious, the Almighty."*¹³

*"It is incumbent upon all men, each according to his ability, to refute the arguments of those that have attacked the Faith of God. Thus hath it been decreed by Him Who is the All-Powerful, the Almighty."*¹⁴

*"Be unrestrained as the wind, while carrying the Message of Him Who hath caused the Dawn of Divine Guidance to break. Consider, how the wind, faithful to that which God hath ordained, bloweth upon all the regions of the earth, be they inhabited or desolate. Neither the sight of desolation, nor the evidences of prosperity, can either pain or please it."*¹⁵

*"And this is how to teach: with an eloquent tongue, a ready pen, a goodly character, pleasing words, and righteous ways and deeds."*¹⁶

¹¹. Baha'u'llah, Gleaning from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, no. CXXXIX

¹². Baha'u'llah, Gleaning from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, no. C

¹³. Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah no. CXXVIII

¹⁴. Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah no. CLIV

¹⁵. Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah no. CLXI

¹⁶. Abdu'l-Bahá, Memorials of the Faithful, pp. 127

“Deliver to mankind this joyous message from the Bahá Realm.”¹⁷

“Forsake every commemoration and thought in the cell of oblivion (i.e., forget everything) and confine thy days and time in preaching the Kingdom of God, spreading the teachings of God and igniting the lights of guidance in the hearts which are awaiting the Kingdom of God.”¹⁸

“My dear friend! If thou didst know how dear thou art to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, thou wouldst spread wings, and through excess of joy, soar and begin teaching all that country.”¹⁹

“Reveal thou (or teach thou) the Word of God; be not grieved at the people's lack of hearing. Do thou sow the seed, and God will make it grow and the cloud (or rain) of mercy will develop it.”²⁰

“Truly, I say unto thee, to be engaged in diffusing the fragrance of God (teaching the Truth) for one hour of time is better than the dominion of the world and all therein; for the latter is mortal and temporary, while the former is permanent and endless.”²¹

Compilation: [Guidelines for Teaching](#)

Other references: Lights of Guidance 1977-2001



Babi Dispensation

“It is better to guide one soul than to possess all that is on earth, for as long as that guided soul is under the shadow of the Tree of Divine Unity, he and the one who hath guided him will both be recipients of God's tender mercy, whereas possession of earthly things will cease at the time of death. The path to guidance is one of love and compassion, not of force and coercion. This hath been God's method in the past, and shall continue to be in the future! He causeth him whom He pleaseth to enter the shadow of His Mercy. Verily, He is the Supreme Protector, the All-Generous.”²²



¹⁷. Abdu'l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Bahá, pp. 243-246

¹⁸. Abdu'l-Bahá, Tablets of Abdu'l-Bahá v3, p. 607-609

¹⁹. Abdu'l-Bahá, Tablets of Abdu'l-Bahá vol 2, pp. 336

²⁰. Abdu'l-Bahá, Tablets of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá vol 1, pp. 209

²¹. Abdu'l-Bahá, Tablets of Abdu'l-Bahá vol 3, pp. 607-609

²². The Bab, Selections from the Writings of the Bab, Excerpts from the Persian Bayan, Wahid II, Chapter XVI

Islamic Dispensation

*"Those who convey the messages of Allah and fear Him and do not fear anyone except Allah. And sufficient is Allah as Accountant."*²³

*"And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a bringer of good tidings and a warner."*²⁴



Christian Dispensation

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*²⁵

*"He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."*²⁶



Jewish Dispensation

*"Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up"*²⁷

*"Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave"*²⁸

*"Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess"*²⁹



²³. The Holy Qur'an, Al-Ahzab 33:39

²⁴. The Holy Qur'an, Al-Furqan 25:56

²⁵. The Holy Bible, Matthew 28:19-20

²⁶. The Holy Bible, Mark 16:15

²⁷. The Holy Bible, Deuteronomy 6:7

²⁸. The Holy Bible, Exodus 18:20

²⁹. The Holy Bible, Deuteronomy 31:12-13