

Ikhlas — sincerity

The same act, done for two different reasons, is two different deeds. Ikhlas is doing it for Allah alone.



Deeds are by intention

إِنَّمَا الْأَعْمَالُ بِالنِّيَّاتِ، وَإِنَّمَا لِكُلِّ امْرِئٍ مَا نَوَى

“Deeds are by intentions, and every man has only what he intended.” The first hadith of Bukhari’s collection, and the measure of all the rest.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1

What you were commanded

وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ

“And they were not commanded except to worship Allah, being sincere to Him in religion.”

Qur'an 98:5

He looks at the heart

“Allah does not look to your bodies nor to your faces, but He looks to your hearts” — and, in another wording, to your deeds.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Birr wa's-Silah

Nothing added

فَاعْبُدِ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ

“So worship Allah, being sincere to Him in religion.” Nothing added for anyone else, nothing held back.

Qur'an 39:2

A share given away

Allah said: I need no partner. Whoever does a deed in which he associates another with Me, I leave him to the one he associated with Me.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab az-Zuhd wa'r-Raqa'iq

Showing off, exposed

“Whoever lets people hear of his deeds, Allah will let them hear his real intention; and whoever shows off, Allah will show what he is.”

Sahih al-Bukhari 6499

The deed with no witness

Among the seven Allah shades on a day with no shade: a man who gives charity so secretly that his left hand does not know what his right gave.

Sahih al-Bukhari 660

The first three judged

A martyr, a reciter and a generous man are judged first — and each is told he acted so that it would be said of him. The deeds were real; the aim was not.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Imarah

No thanks wanted

إِنَّمَا نَطْعِمُكُمْ لَوَجْهِ اللَّهِ لَا نُرِيدُ مِنْكُمْ جَزَاءً وَلَا شُكُورًا

“We feed you only for the countenance of Allah. We wish not from you reward or gratitude.”

Qur'an 76:9