

Tawakkul — trust, and tying the camel

Tawakkul is not the absence of effort. The verse that commands it comes immediately after the command to consult, and the bird it is compared to leaves the nest every morning.



★ He is enough for him

وَمَنْ يَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ فَهُوَ حَسْبُهُ

“And whoever relies upon Allah — He is sufficient for him.” The same passage: “and He will provide for him from where he does not expect.”

Qur'an 65:3

★ After you have decided

وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ

“And consult them in the matter; then when you have decided, rely upon Allah.” Consultation, decision, reliance — in that order, in one verse.

Qur'an 3:159

★ What they said at the news

وَقَالُوا حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ

Told that an army had gathered against them, “they said: sufficient for us is Allah, and He is the best Disposer of affairs.” Told the worst, they answered with a sentence, not a plan.

Qur'an 3:173

★ Tie it, and rely

اعْقِلْهَا وَتَوَكَّلْ

A man asked: shall I tie my camel and rely on Allah, or leave it loose and rely on Allah? “Tie it and rely.” Graded hasan in deen2u's corpus, though Yahya al-Qattan called this chain munkar and at-Tirmidhi called it gharib.

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 2517 · hasan; chain criticised (al-Qattan: munkar)

★ The bird that still flies out

لَوْ أَنكُمْ كُنْتُمْ تَوَكَّلُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ حَقَّ تَوَكُّلِهِ لَرِزِقْتُمْ كَمَا تُرْزَقُ الطَّيْرُ تَغْدُو خِمَاصًا وَتَرْجُحُ بَطَانًا

“If you relied upon Allah as He should be relied upon, He would provide for you as He provides for the bird: it goes out hungry in the morning and returns full.” It goes out.

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 2344 · hasan sahih (at-Tirmidhi)

★ Said at the door

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ عَلَى اللَّهِ لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ

“When a man leaves his house and says: in the name of Allah, I rely upon Allah, there is no power and no strength except by Allah — it is said to him: you are guided, provided for and protected.”

Sunan Abu Dawud 5095 · sahih

★ Nothing outside the writing

قُلْ لَنْ يُصِيبَنَا إِلَّا مَا كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَنَا هُوَ مَوْلَانَا وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ

“Say: nothing will strike us except what Allah has decreed for us; He is our protector. And upon Allah let the believers rely.”

Qur'an 9:51

★ A prophet's own words

وَمَا تَوْفِيقِي إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَإِلَيْهِ أُنِيبُ

Shu'ayb, speaking to a town that would not listen: “And my success is only through Allah. Upon Him I rely, and to Him I return.” Said while still doing the work.

Qur'an 11:88

★ Listed as a sign of faith

وَعَلَى رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ

“...and upon their Lord they rely.” The third item in a short description of who the believers are — after hearts that stir at His mention and faith that grows when His verses are read.

Qur'an 8:2