

one is the one who seeks the truth that will increase him in faith and obedience to the Messenger (ﷺ).

As for the one who turns on his heels and turns away from the truth, following his whims and desires, it only increases him in disbelief and confusion, and he gives a false argument that is based on doubts to which there is no reality.

﴿It﴾ that is, the changing of the qibla ﴿was indeed difficult﴾ that is, hard ﴿except for those whom Allah guided﴾; they realised that this was a blessing from Allah to them, so they gave thanks and acknowledged His favour to them, as He commanded them to face towards this sacred House, which He favoured over all other places on earth, and made pilgrimage to it one of the pillars of Islam and the means of erasing sin. Hence it was easy for them but difficult for others.

Then Allah says: ﴿Allah will never let your faith go to waste﴾ that is, it is not appropriate or befitting for Him to do such a thing; rather it is not possible. Allah tells us that it is impossible for Him to let your faith go to waste. This is great glad tidings for those whom He has blessed with Islam and faith, for He will preserve and keep their faith for them, and will not let it go to waste. This keeping is of two types: protecting it from going to waste or becoming invalid, by protecting it for them from any trials and tribulations, or whims and desires, that could spoil it or undermine it; and protecting it by making it grow for them and guiding them to that by means of which their faith will increase and their certainty will become complete. Just as He initially guided you to faith, He will preserve it for you and will complete His favour to you by making it, and its reward, grow and increase, and by protecting it from anything that could contaminate it. When turmoils strike, which are a test aimed at finding out who is sincere in his faith and who is lying, these trials will purify the believers and highlight their sincerity. It is as if this is aimed at refuting the argument of those who said when Allah said: ﴿and We prescribed