

relatives, slaves and so on, and spending on all kinds of charitable causes, which is encouraged in Islam (*mustahabb*). The recipients of this spending are not mentioned, because there are so many different ways of spending and because spending in and of itself is a means of drawing close to Allah. The word *min* (translated here as «out of») refers to some of the wealth; this draws attention to the fact that all that is expected of them is to give a small portion of their wealth, in such a way that does not harm them and is not burdensome; in fact they themselves benefit from spending and their brothers will also benefit.

«what We have provided for them». This indicates that this wealth that you possess was not obtained by your strength and efforts; rather it is provision that Allah has bestowed upon you and blessed you with. Therefore, as He has blessed you and favoured you above many of His slaves, you should show gratitude to Him by giving some of that with which He has blessed you, thus helping (literally, consoling) your brothers who are destitute.

Allah (ﷻ) often mentions prayer and zakâh together in the Qur'an, because prayer is a reflection of sincerity towards Allah, and zakâh and spending are a reflection of kindness towards His slaves. The sign of a person's being blessed (destined for paradise) is his sincerity towards Allah and his striving to help and benefit people, just as the sign of a person's being doomed (destined for hell) is that he does not have these two characteristics, sincerity and kindness.

«And who believe in the Revelation sent down to you», namely the Qur'an and Sunnah. Allah (ﷻ) says:

«...For Allah has sent down to you the Book and wisdom...» (*an-Nisâ' 4: 113*)

So the pious believe in everything that the Messenger (ﷺ) brought, and they do not differentiate between what he brought, believing in some parts and not believing in others, either by rejecting them or interpreting them in a manner other than that which was intended, as some of the innovators do, who misinterpret the texts that point