

الْأَرْضِ ذَهَبًا وَلَوْ افْتَدَى بِهِ ۚ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ وَمَا لَهُمْ مِنْ نَّاصِرِينَ ﴿٩١﴾

(سورة آل عمران: ٩٠-٩١)

- 3:90. But those who disbelieve after having believed – and then continue increasing in their disbelief, their repentance will never be accepted; they are the ones who have gone astray.
- 3:91. Verily those who disbelieved and died as disbelievers, not an earthful of gold will be accepted from any such, even if they were to offer it as a ransom. For such there will be a painful punishment, and they will find no helpers.

Here Allah (ﷻ) tells us that whoever disbelieves after having believed, then increases in disbelief by persisting in wrongdoing and misguidance, and persisting in turning away from the path of guidance, his repentance will not be accepted. In other words, they will not be helped to repent in any acceptable manner; rather Allah will let them get carried away in their misguidance. Allah (ﷻ) says: ﴿We will turn their hearts and eyes away [from the truth], since they refused to believe in it the first time...﴾ (*al-An'ām* 6: 110)

﴿...So when they chose to deviate [from the truth], Allah caused their hearts to deviate...﴾ (*as-Saff* 61: 5)

Hence evil deeds lead to more evil deeds, especially in the case of one who has fallen into major disbelief and has abandoned the straight path, after proof was established against him and Allah had shown him clear signs and evidence. Such a person has barred himself from taking measures of attaining his Lord's mercy, and he is the one who has barred the way to repentance for himself. Hence misguidance is solely applicable to this type of people.

﴿they are the ones who have gone astray﴾ that is, what misguidance can be greater than that of the one who has abandoned the straight path, knowing that it is the straight path. If these disbelievers persist