

Fast 16

“And We have revealed the Book to you (O Prophet) explaining all things, and a guidance and mercy and **good news** for those who submit.” — Ch. 16, v. 89.

“Say: The Holy Spirit has revealed it from your Lord with truth, that it may establish those who believe, and as a guidance and **good news** for those who submit.” — Ch. 16, v. 102.

“These are the verses of the Quran and the Book that makes manifest: a guidance and **good news** for the believers” — Ch. 27, v. 1–2.

Notes: The Quran is described as “good news” (*bushra*) for those who accept its teachings. The words “good news” are used in Christianity to refer to the doctrine that a person is “saved” by **believing** that Jesus died on the cross for the sins of mankind, and this is the “good news” Christian evangelists seek to spread in the world.

The Quran, for its part, speaks of itself as being “good news”, of success in this world and the hereafter for those who **follow** its teachings. The first two verses above show that the good news are promised not to those who merely **believe**, but to those who submit to the commandments of God. In the expression “good news for **those who submit**” the word translated above by Maulana Muhammad Ali as “those who submit” is the plural of *muslim*. Like Maulana Muhammad Ali, many other translators also translate it here in similar words, for example as “those who devote themselves to God”. Some translators do translate it as “Muslim” and their rendering runs along the lines: “good news for Muslims”. However, Maulana Muhammad Ali, and the other like translators, are indicating that the good news are meant for those who actually submit to God, not for those merely calling themselves as Muslims. See further the verses given below.

“And give good news to those who believe **and do good deeds**, that for them are Gardens in which rivers flow.” — Ch. 2, v. 25.

“And give good news **to the patient**, who, when a misfortune befalls them, say: Surely we are Allah’s, and to Him we shall return.” — Ch. 2, v. 155–156.

“And give good news **to the humble**, whose hearts tremble when Allah is mentioned, and who are patient in their afflictions, and who keep up prayer, and spend (on good works) out of what We have given them.” — Ch. 22, v. 34–35.

“And give good news **to those who do good to others.**” — Ch. 22, v. 37.

“And those who shun the worship of the idols and turn to Allah, for them is good news. So give good news **to My servants, who listen to the Word, then follow the best of it.** Such are they whom Allah has guided, and such are they who have understanding.” — Ch. 39, v. 17–18.

“They who turn (to Allah), who serve (Him), who praise (Him), who fast, who bow down, who prostrate themselves, who enjoin what is good and forbid what is evil, and who keep the limits of Allah — and give good news to the believers.” — Ch. 9, v. 112.

Notes: The first five passages quoted above show that the good news mentioned in the Quran are promised to those who display certain qualities in practice, such as doing good, showing patience, being humble, and following the word of God.

The last passage (9:112) clearly indicates that in the expression “give good news to the believers” are meant those people who display the qualities and perform the actions mentioned in the preceding words, i.e., turning to Allah, serving Him, etc.

Inspiring sayings

Maulana Muhammad Ali said in a Friday *khutba*:

“The Holy Prophet has taught by his own example of rising at night and praying to Allah for long in solitude. ... What an anxiety there was in the heart of the Holy Prophet that kept him so restless! Until you develop that same anxiety within your hearts, prayers do not acquire their real sense. So rise up in the night, shed tears before God and seek His assistance by praying from the depth of your heart that He make His religion succeed.” — *A Mighty Striving*, page 285.