**Crucial Questions in the Life of a Muslim**

What is the difference between the Names of Allah and His Attributes?

The Names of Allah and His Attributes both share the trait that it is allowed to seek refuge and to swear oaths by them, but there are some important differences between them, some of which are as follows:

**A.** It is allowed to supplicate to Allah using one of His Names, or name oneself “the slave of” one of His Names, but this is not allowed with his Attributes. Thus, one may call himself Abd al-Kareem (the slave of the Most Generous) but not Abd al-Karam (slave of Generosity), and one may supplicate “O Most Generous (Kareem)!” but not “O Karam (Generosity) of Allah!”

**B.** One may derive Attributes from Allah’s Names, but one may not derive names from his Attributes. Thus one may derive the Attribute ‘rahmah’ (mercy) from His Name ‘ArRahman’ (The Merciful), but not the name ‘al-mustawi’ (The One who Rises Over) from His Attribute of ‘al-istiwaa’ (Rising Over)1 .

**C.** One may not derive Names from the actions of Allah. Thus, one may not say that one of the names of Allah is alghaadib (the Angry) based on the fact that Allah becomes angry. One may, however, derive Attributes from His actions, and thus affirm that one of the Attributes of Allah is Ghadab (anger) due to the fact that He becomes angry.

What is belief in the Angels?

Belief in the angels means to believe with firm conviction that they exist, and that Allah ( subhanahu wa ta‘ala ) created them in order to worship Him and carry out His commands, as He said: “…they are honored servants. They cannot precede Him in word, and they act by His command.” [21:26-27] .

Belief in Angels includes:

1. believing in their existence; **2)** believing in all those who have been named to us like Jibreel (Gabriel); **3)** believing in all what we have been told about their attributes, such as their mighty creation; **4)** believing in all what we have been told about their particular duties and activities, such as the Angel of Death.

What is the Qur’an?

The Qur’an is the word of Allah ( subhanahu wa ta‘ala ), the recitation of which is an act of worship. He actually spoke it as it is, with its letters and sounds which Jibreel heard from Him and then conveyed to the Prophet Muhammad ( Sal-lal-laahu alaihi wa sal-lam). Similarly, all divinely revealed books are the words of Allah.

What is belief in the Messengers?

Belief in the Messengers is to have firm conviction that Allah sent Messengers to every people from their own kind [tribe, nation, etc.], calling them to worship Allah alone without partners, and to disbelieve in idolatry and worshipping others. Also, it is to believe that they all are truthful, reliable (trustworthy), rightly guided, noble, righteous and dutiful, pious, honest and that they guide others to the right path.