

Should we say “Habīb-ullāh” for the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم?

It is common to hear the phrase “Habīb-ullāh” referring to the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم, however, how accurate is this statement?

Shaikh ibn ‘Uthaymīn رحمه الله responds:

“The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم is habīb-ullāh [beloved of Allāh] no doubt, for indeed he loves Allāh and is beloved to Allāh, however there is a description that is higher and better than this, and that is to say “Khalīl-ullāh”. For indeed the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم is the khalīl of Allah as in the hadīth, “Indeed Allah took me as a khalīl just as He took Ibrāhīm as a khalīl”.

Therefore, the one who describes the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم as “habīb-ullāh” has actually lowered him صلى الله عليه وسلم from his status, because “khalīl” is greater and higher than “habīb”, since all the believers can be said to be the “habīb” of Allāh, but the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم is in a position higher than that, and that is the position of being the “khalīl”.

[Fatawā Arkān ul-Islām p98/99 paraphrased]

Similarly **Shaikh ul-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah** mentioned, “The statement of some of the people that Muhammad ﷺ is “habīb-ullāh” and that Ibrāhīm عليه السلام is “khalīl-ullāh”, thinking that “habīb” is a greater love than “khalīl” is a weak statement, rather the Prophet ﷺ is khalīl-ullāh”

[Majmū’ ul Fatāwā 10/24 paraphrased]

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Abū Mu’ādh Taqweem
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