

## **My First Impressions of the Nur-ul-Quran OC Group . . .**

AssalamAlaikum. I recently started attending the Nur-ul-Quran OC Group meetings. Today, I wanted to share with you my first impressions of the Group. I think I can sum up my initial impression in three words:

### **Faith, Fellowship, Freedom**

#### **Faith:**

About Faith, this group is dedicated to the sharing of Allah SWT words through the teachings of the Quran; learnings from Hadiths; and, tafsir to further explain, expound on, and reinforce what we've learned. And, we are given all the tools for this personal growth to take place and set us forth on a long journey to becoming more faithful.

#### **Fellowship:**

This fellowship of Muslim women offers teaching, mentoring, motivation and empowerment. The positive effects of which permeate into our family life, relationships with friends and our communities. A lifelong gift!!

These dedicated women gather together, twice a month at one of the sister's homes. We come together because of our desire to learn, explore and rejoice in the teachings of the Quran and learnings from Hadiths. These teachings are supported by scholarly research and are placed into the appropriate historical context.

We use a multi-media approach to reinforce our learnings. We leverage Nur-ul-Quran Institute's online educational program. Our meetings are also conducted in a multi-lingual setting. It's an informal setting where

you're encouraged to participate, ask questions, and even laugh together. It's truly a Sisterhood of the Faith! And Fun!

### **Freedom:**

Lastly, Freedom for me is really a culmination of Faith and Fellowship. What I mean by that is you walk away each time with a feeling of being more centered, more complete, more clear of purpose, more congruous with your sense of "self" and identity.

When this happens, you can let loose of your mental baggage and it frees you up to be more authentic and gives you renewed energy to focus on what's really important in life and our relationship with Allah SWT, our family and our communities. It's a life-long journey.

In my humble and heartfelt opinion, I call this freedom. That's how this feels to me.

And finally, to the Nur-ul-Quran OC Group of sisters, family and guests, thank you for giving me this opportunity to share with you my first impressions.

I'd like to leave you with this quote:

*"When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a Joy."* Rumi

Thank you, Shukria.