Yes, We are Salafi and We Shall Remain
So by the Permission of Allāh!

al-‘Allāmah Šāliḥ Ibn Fawzān al-Fawzān
- May Allāh preserve and protect him -
The Shaykh, al-‘Allāmah Ṣāliḥ Ibn Fawzān al-Fawzān - may Allāh preserve him – said,

We heard and read a speech by his eminence, Prince Nāyif Ibn ‘Abd al-‘Azīz Āli-Sa‘ūd, Crown Prince, and Assistant President of the Committee of Ministers and Interior Minister - may Allāh preserve him - which he delivered during the opening of the conference “Salafiyyah is a Legislative Methodology and a National Pursuit,” which was held at Muḥammad Ibn Sa‘ūd Islāmic University in Riyadh. It was a pure and truthful speech which entailed that this land of Saudi Arabia, and all praise is for Allāh, was and is still built upon the methodology of the Salaf al-Ṣāliḥ in reality and not just by mere claim. That has guaranteed for this country to remain and continue by Allāh’s praise.

Although, it has endured periods of crisis, purification and being tested, like what was endured by the Messenger (ṣallallāhu ʿalayhi wa sallam) and his Companions (radiyallāhu ‘anhum) during the battles of Uhud, Aḥzāb and Ḥunayn. Likewise, it is from the Sunnah (tradition) of Allāh regarding His servants so that the evil from amongst them can be distinguished from the good and so that the Believers may stand firm and the hypocrites be forsaken. Indeed, he (Prince Nāyif) - may Allāh preserve him - clarified that the true Salafiyyah is the methodology whose principles are extracted from the Book of Allāh and the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allāh (ṣallallāhu ʿalayhi wa sallam) and with that it is absolved of everything that has been attached to it from false attacks and accusations and this characteristic distances the methodology from everything that the false claimants to this methodology are upon. This is because those who claim Salafiyyah today are many, however the consideration is to given to those who truly implement this claim with truthfulness, and this is by knowing the reality of the methodology of the Salaf firstly and by treading upon it secondly.

Furthermore, if mere claims are not backed up by proofs that solidify them, then those who make these claims are mere claimants. Allah the Mighty and Majestic says,
“And the first and foremost to embrace Islam from the Muhājirūn and Anṣār, and those who follow them in goodness, Allah is pleased with them and they with Him. And He has prepared for them gardens under which rivers flow they will abide therein forever. That is the supreme success.”
[Sūrah al-Tawbah 9:100]

So the Salaf al-Ṣāliḥ are the Muhājirūn and Anṣār and those who follow them with goodness, meaning: precision. This is because they know the methodology of the Salaf, so they do not follow them upon ignorance, but they cling to it and have patience upon it no matter what obstacle they come upon. They also free themselves from that which the khalaf (late-comers) bring anew from novelties and innovations in belief or worship, just as he (ṣallallāhu ʿalayhi wa sallam) said, “Indeed, whoever lives from you will see great disagreements. So stick to my Sunnah and the Sunnah of the Rightly Guided Caliphs. Hold on to it and bite onto it with you molar teeth. And beware of newly invented matters, for every newly invented matter is an innovation and every innovation is a misguidance.”

So true Salafiyyah is innocent from extremism and radicalism and it is innocent from falling short and being inadequate. And you find upon each of these two sides those who adopt (these ideologies) and call to them here, (the first) in the name of the Religion and the other side in the name of making things easy and being apologetic. As the one poet once said,

“Everyone is claiming to have love for Laylā; However, Laylā does not affirm her love for any of them.”

He - may Allāh preserve him – then said,

“For indeed this blessed country was built upon the Salafī methodology since it was founded by Imām Muḥammad Ibn Saʿūd and his covenant with the Imām Muḥammad Ibn ʿAbd al-Wahhāb (d.1206H) - may Allāh have mercy on them both - and it does not cease to be so up until this day of ours and this is something in which this country takes pride.”

I say: Yes! Indeed this country used to complain of being stagnant, being in poverty, being split in its Religion and worldly affairs, and it was upon the methodology of the khalaf in creed, worship and its ruling body. It had no essence nor any security or stability and its scholars for the most part were upon the methodology of the khalaf in worship. And there were spread amongst them superstitions and Shirk (associating partners with Allāh) in worship and chaos was manifested in their rulings up until Allāh bestowed upon them the call of Tawhīd by way of the Imām and reviver Muḥammad Ibn ʿAbd al-Wahhāb (d.1206H). And he was aided and supported by Imām Muḥammad Ibn Saʿūd. It was a result of this that a blessed nation was established upon the methodology of the Book and Sunnah just as was stated by Prince Nāyif - may Allāh preserve him - and it is still upon that and will not cease to be upon that and the praise is for Allāh, so long as it holds onto what is was established upon.

1 Ṣahih: Related by Abū Dāwūd (no. 4607), al-Tirmidhī (no. 2676), Ibn Mājah (no. 42-43), al-Dārimī (no. 96) and Aḥmad in al-Musnad (4/126-127). It was authenticated by al-Albānī in Ṣaḥīḥ Sunan Abī Dāwūd (no. 3).
Then - he may Allāh preserve him – said,

“And one should know and understand, that whoever speaks ill of its methodology (i.e. Salafīyyah) or spreads doubts and accusations concerning it, then he is ignorant, and it is a must that its reality be clarified to such an individual.”

I say: Indeed, since this blessed country was formed, it has been facing accusations, and doubts have been propagated concerning its methodology and this is not something strange. Since, the Prophet (sallallāhu ʿalayhi wa sallam) faced many doubts and accusations about him propagated by the Jews, Christians and polytheists from that which Allāh mentioned and refuted in the Qur’ān. The same thing that this country has been facing since it began and has not cease to face regarding its methodology is from the enemies, the envious, hypocrites, innovators and people of superstitions just as its history clearly witnesses to as well as the books of its Scholars from the time of Shaykh Muḥammad Ibn ʿAbd al-Wahhāb up until this day of ours. And let us read the book: Kashf al-Shubūḥāt (Removal of the Doubts) authored by Shaykh Muḥammad Ibn ʿAbd al-Wahhāb and the books which came after that authored as refutations up those false doubts and accusations.

Then he said - may Allāh preserve him,

“And this university did not hold this conference, except to explain and clarify the reality of this correct and upright methodology, which has been wrongfully and unjustly burdened with lies, falsehood and erroneous understandings such as takfīr, extremism, terrorism and other than that to the point that it makes it incumbent upon us all to stand together as one against all of that. Additionally, we must face these false doubts and false statements with that which will refute them and clarify that this is not its reality.”

I say: All praises are for Allāh that all of these false statements and doubts have been refuted in many books from the Scholars of this daʿwah and from their brothers from the Scholars in other countries, and they are printed and in circulation. Also I suggest that the University reprints them and distributes them such as it will be an act which will complete this blessed conference. Furthermore, even if there are those who stood against this daʿwah as they did and they have failed – and all praise is for Allāh - indeed there are reliable Scholars who stood with it and supported it from the various lands such as Shām (i.e. Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan), Egypt, India and other lands and groups were started who began to call to this blessed daʿwah such as the Aḥl al-Ḥadīth in India and Aḥl al-Sunnah in Egypt and Sudan and Aḥl al-Sunnah wa al-Tawḥīd in Yemen, and the plots of those who plotted against it all turned in failure. Allāh said,

“They wish to put of the light of Allāh with their mouths but Allāh refuses except to complete His light even if the disbelievers hate it.”

[Sūrah al-Tawbah 9:32]
Then he said – may Allāh preserve him,

“Noble brothers, we emphasize to you that this country, if Allāh wills, will remain following the upright methodology of the Salaf and will not divert from it and we will not draw back from it, for it is the source of its glory and success and raises its status, just as it is a source for its progression and development due to it gathering between being pure in its origin and (suitable) for contemporary times. It is a religious and legislative methodology, just as it is has a worldly factor and calls to taking the reins of progression and development and it calls to having a peaceful living with others and to respect their rights.”

I say: In this is a promise from his eminence to Ahl al-Sunnah in this country and other than it, that the country of Saudi Arabia, may Allāh grant it success, will stand firm upon the methodology of the Salaf al-Ṣālih which is was built upon. Also in this is misery for the enemies of this country who try to divert it from its correct methodology to innovated methodologies which they have adopted from those who want to take the rule away from the two parties (i.e the Scholars and rulers). There is also misery for those who want to uproot the Sunnah and replace it with innovation, Ṣufiyyah, and superstitions in this country from the groups of Ṣufiyyah and superstition and also those who want to shift it from being middle course to extremism and radicalism from the groups of the ignorant and harshly overboard or shift it to being negligent and being watered down by the Murji‘ah, secularists and liberalists.

He said – may Allāh preserve him,

“...because it is the source of its glory and success and raises its status.”

I say: That which is a witness to this is that which this country was upon from chaos, being in loss, differing and poverty before this country was established.

Also his statement - may Allāh preserve him - about this methodology,

“...it gathers between being pure in its origin and (suitable) for contemporary times.”

I say: because this Religion is suitable for all times and places just as Imām Mālik (d.179H) - rahimahullāh - stated, “The latter part of this Ummah will not be rectified, except by that which rectified its beginning part.”2

He then said - may Allāh preserve him,

“It is a religious and legislative methodology; just as it is has a worldly factor and calls to taking the reins of progression and development.”

I say: That which shows the truthfulness of that is the statement of Allāh Exalted,

“Today I have completed your Religion for you.” [Sūrah al-Mā’idah 5:3]

And His statement,

“And prepare against them what you have from strength.” [Sūrah al-Anfāl 6:80]

And also His statement,

“And take your precautionary measures.” [Sūrah al-Nisā’ 4:102]

And His statement,

“And do not throw yourselves into destruction.” [Sūrah al-Baqarah 2:195]

And finally his statement - may Allāh preserve him, “...and it calls to having a peaceful living with others and to respect their rights.”

I say: This is what the statement of Allāh the Exalted entails,

“And do not transgress, verily Allah does not like those who transgress.” [Sūrah al-Mā’idah 5:87]

And His statement,

“And if they are just and fair to you be just and fair to them.” [Sūrah al-Tawbah 9:7]

And His statement,

“And do not make your severe hate for a people stop you from being just; be just it is closer to piety.” [Sūrah al-Mā’idah 5:87]

And His statement,

“Allāh does not forbid you from those who do not fight you in your Religion and do not expel you from your homes that you do good towards them and be just to them, verily Allāh loves those who are just.” [Sūrah al-Mumtaḥinah 60:8]
Yes, We are Salafi and We Shall Remain so by the Permission of Allāh!

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May Allāh bless his eminence and place his words upon his scale of good deeds.

And may the peace and salutations of Allāh be upon our Prophet Muḥammad.

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⁴ The original Arabic essay can be viewed here: http://www.alfawzan.af.org.sa/node/13669