

# Tawassul/Wasilah Defined

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The word *Wasilah* is derived from the Arabic Form *wasala*. According to Ibn Manzoor (Lisanul Arab by Imam Abul Fadl Ibn Manzoor Al Afriqi al Misri, one of the most authentic and inclusive Arabic dictionaries), its linguistic meaning is: "**Status in the court of the King.**"

- Wasilah can also mean: nearness, position.
- A *wasil* is one who desires closeness to the creator.
- Tawassul is used when one wishes to show that he is using something to bring him closer to achieving his role and task. (Lisanul Arab, Volume 6, page 443)

The Quran uses the word *wasilah* in the ayah, "Those whom they call upon desire for themselves means (*wasilah*) of access to their Lord, as to which of them that they call the nearest." (Surah Al Isra)

After looking at the context in which *Wasilah* was used in the Qur'an and Hadith we can agree on the meaning given by Imam Hafiz Ibn Kathir:

"It is that which is used for achieving one's goal and purpose"

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