

Power Producing Declarations and Decrees

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A few days ago, a prophetic person from our church called to give me a word she had received during her prayer time. This is nothing unusual. I correspond regularly with the prophetic people in the church and weigh many words. However, the beginning of the word she gave me did not need to be weighed. I knew it was from the LORD immediately. The Word was: “God is calling the Church to a new understanding of declarations.” Then she added, “But I feel like you already knew this, so it is just confirmation for you. Right?”

This past year (which is quickly winding down) the LORD has been speaking to me about declarations and decrees. And truthfully, when I was given this Word, I knew I had taken the subject way too lightly and I had to repent for it after I felt I had actually received a phone call from God! Has that ever happened to you?

As I sit today in the presence of the LORD, He is making the issue of **declaring and decreeing** so strong that I can hardly write. If I ever had a prophetic word, this is one that must be made known in this Hour.

Now I know there has been a lot spoken and written on prophetic—biblical declarations and decrees over the last years particularly, and many, many are getting a hold of these truths. At the same time, I am finding out that many in the Body of Christ still do not understand the power, magnitude, as well as the seriousness of either, nor do many apply the faith that backs and produces them (causes to manifest).

Prayer

First, the LORD is strongly impressing on me that it is TIME to change our prayer life. Many are still praying as beggars instead of the heirs we have been made, instead of the kings and priests seated with Christ Jesus in Heaven. Many are praying as if Jesus Christ accomplished nothing but getting us to Heaven when we die resulting in eternal life! However, what happens here is mostly misery. We’re just trying to get through this life so we can get to Heaven. This kind of praying is directly linked to religion and a spirit of religion backs every bit of it. We work and work at praying to get what we need and then fail to actually apprehend it after we have spent so much time pleading with God in intercession. Why? Does God not hear us? Or possibly our demise is all a part of the Sovereign God’s plan for our life? Possibly God planned in advance for us to be sick, broken, live in poverty, die early and the like?

Unfortunately, while many of us would not readily admit this, many believe it just the same.

However, the LORD reminds us that we indeed have all that we need! In fact He tells us that He will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.¹ And, “*He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*”² “*Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.*”³ We all know these verses, but do we really “*know them*”? Do we really understand and believe them? Or, do we put them into a “religious context” that causes us to work more and more seeing less and less results?

We cannot approach God in prayer and deny His Son's finished work on our behalf. This is unbelief. And if we are constantly and continually struggling with believing what God said in His Word, we need to be born-again because we are unbelievers.

Our prayer life needs to consist of building a deep, loving, knowledgeable, and powerful relationship with the LORD and His Holy Spirit. That includes worship, praise, expressions of gratitude and thanksgiving, declaring the wonderful works of our Savior, listening, listening, and listening more. This is how Jesus conducted His prayer life. He already knew what He was sent to do and He already knew He had everything He needed to accomplish His task. Therefore, He spent His time in prayer in relationship with the Father. Then He went out and spoke what the Father spoke to Him and did what the Father instructed Him to do. He was guided and instructed by Holy Spirit to release the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. We are to have the very prayer life that Jesus had with the Father. Our prayer life needs to release empowerment from the Kingdom for daily living. The Kingdom needs to become our reality. This involves a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

In our prayer time, we are to pray in the Spirit--this is praying in tongues.⁴ In fact, praying in tongues should consume most of our prayer life. It's a safety net for many because when we pray in tongues, we're praying what Holy Spirit prays through us and it's bypassing our own mind, thought life and will--which can be our very downfall. The LORD showed me one time that much of our praying in tongues consist of extraordinary praise and worship to God. The Holy Spirit may be offering prayers through us when we pray in tongues, but He is just as much if not more so offering worship and praise to God! Little do many realize that through tongues Holy Spirit is putting our prayer life in perfect order whereby the Kingdom can be empowered and released on earth where we are.

This is why we are to pray in our native language and we are to pray in the Spirit!

As part of our prayer time, we are to make *declarations* and *decrees*. If we look at the life of Christ and how He did ministry, we would find that He conducted it mostly through declarations and decrees. I used to think that declarations and decrees were basically the same, but indeed they are not and instinctively different. By understanding what they mean, we can more powerfully harness the power of each.

The follow definitions for *declaration* and *decree* are offered by Elizabeth A. Nixon, attorney at law, from her article, "*Are You Decreeing and Declaring in Your Prayers?*"⁵

Declarations

"The word *declare* comes from the Hebrew *achvah*, meaning "to make known" or "to set forth an accounting." It is commonly used by customs agents who ask international travelers, 'Do you have anything to declare?' The agents are asking for specifics of what you have, what you are carrying.



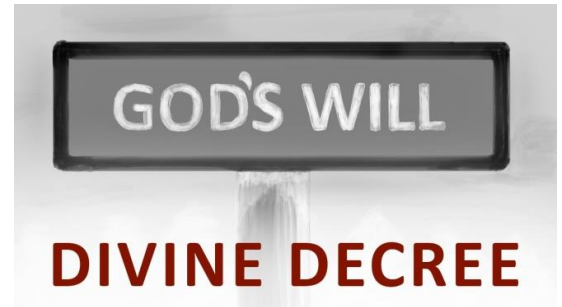
"As it pertains to us spiritually, declarations are what we speak into the atmosphere, making known what we already have possession of. We can declare our righteousness, our salvation, our eternal victory and our friendship with God."

Unfortunately, I hear many Believers declaring or making known things they should not—taking ownership or possession of things that do not belong to them as Believers. "My heart disease." "My diabetes." "My cancer." "My dyslexia." "My lack." "My trouble." "I'm dumb or stupid."

Declarations can go 2-ways. What are you declaring?

Decrees

“By contrast, decrees are a tool by which we cause the truths of the **heavenly realm** to be manifest into the **natural realm** so they become our daily reality. We decree healing when we are sick. We decree provision and abundance when we are lacking. We decree peace when there is turmoil. Decrees are a tool to fulfill Matthew 6:10: *‘Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth, as it is in heaven,’* (KJV). Decrees manifest heaven on earth.



“The English definition of *decree* is ‘a statement of truth that carries the **authority** of a court order.’ For example, when a defendant is convicted of a crime and sentenced to prison, he cannot ignore that sentence because the authority of the court order is such that upon conviction, he has no further say in the matter.

“The same is true with decrees in the spiritual realm. When we decree God’s provision and blessings over our lives, then anything purposed against our provision and blessing can have no further say in the matter. When we decree “God’s peace and unity in our family, then anything purposed against peace and unity has no valid objection or standing to come against us.

“The biblical context of decrees is that they are the same as the will and purposes of God. Given that serious weight in the spirit, I use only Scriptures as the basis for decrees. Often we can get our own idea of how things could or should be, but it is not uncommon for the way God unfolds His plans to look different than what we expect.

“Decreeing our own vision can create confusion. Decreeing His will establishes His purpose. This is a serious point. Consider the Israelites who missed the Promised Land because it did not look the way they expected it to look. Consider also the Jews who missed their Messiah because He did not do what they expected. Decreeing Scripture releases God’s purposes into our lives without creating confusion or blinding us to His ways.

“In Hebrew, *decree* means ‘to divide, separate and destroy.’ This definition reveals more of what happens in the spiritual realm. When we decree, ‘I am blessed’ (inspired by Psalm 112:1), we establish the blessing while separating ourselves from anything purposed against it and destroying the plans of the enemy. When we decree, ‘My children are strong and full of integrity’ (inspired by Psalm 112:2), we divide our children’s strength from their weakness and separate dishonesty and unrighteousness from within their midst and in their hearts. When we decree, ‘My home brims with wealth’ (inspired by Psalm 112:3), we establish our wealth and destroy the spirits of lack and poverty.

“The German *diktat* is the equivalent of our decree and means ‘a harsh judgment imposed on a defeated enemy that cannot be opposed.’

“The spiritual ramifications are stunning. We see here that when we decree, we:

1. Speak God’s blessings upon our lives,
2. Institute the very will and purposes of God,
3. Separate and destroy the plans of the enemy,
4. Impose a judgment the enemy cannot oppose.”

That is the power of decrees!



Faith, Authority and Favor

However, truth be known, few are seeing or experiencing victory in their prayer life, declarations and decrees. This is because of the lack of faith, authority and favor; yet we've been given all of these! It's time to change our thinking and our mind. It's time to take up God's truth and logic.

Todd Bentley made this statement in his article, *"The Power of the Prophetic Decree"*: "There are believers in the Church today, caught in addiction and bondage, hidden in prison houses. There's so much defeat! If we're honest, we admit that there are times when our back is up against the wall. We think, 'Hey, I know who's going to win in the end, but I'm losing right now and I don't know what going on!' Yet, when we start to rise up in authority, making declarations to set captives free, we're still not seeing the victory we're contending for. Our problem is not in the words we decree, but in the faith behind them. We often don't really believe that there really is authority and power in our words."

(See Todd Bentley's full and powerful article at: <http://www.freshfireusa.com/writings/view/210-Making-Decrees-to-Activate-the-Heavenly-Court>)⁶

Nothing in a Christian's life works without faith. *Nothing*. "Without faith it is impossible to please God." Or, as the Amplified Bible reads: "But without faith it is impossible to [walk with God and] please Him, for whoever comes [near] to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He REWARDS those who [earnestly and diligently] seek Him."⁷

What do you suppose God rewards those who earnestly and diligently seek Him with?

I believe the reward is eternal life, yes; but I also believe His reward is the Kingdom of God with the fullness of Christ, the release of His promises, etc.

The LORD is not only urging His Believers, but He is now, because of the times we are in, *warning us*. It is time to BELIEVE Him and His Word! Essentially, it is time to TRUST Him that we may receive His rewards.

We have all been already given a "measure of faith"⁸ which is meant to grow and increase in us through hearing (really hearing) the Word of Christ.⁹

Do we really understand our authority in Christ Jesus and what it is given to us for? Yes, we have been given authority, but what are we doing with it? Authority dissipates if it is not put to proper use.

A couple of months ago my daughter-in-law and Associate Pastor, Brooke, gave a teaching at our *Women of Distinction* meeting on the topic of *spiritual authority*. Since she and our son, Lucas, are enrolled in Rhema and completing their courses, she used Kenneth E. Hagin's fantastic book, *The Believer's Authority*, a book I dearly value and recommend. As a prophet, I am intimately aware of and connected to spiritual authority. I knew that the teaching Brooke presented was completely inspired and specifically timed by Holy Spirit to get all of us off our blessed assurance and do something with what we have been given. And it certainly wasn't just for the women of our church—it is a message to the Body right now.

We are ambassadors for Jesus Christ;¹⁰ we are stewards for God;¹¹ we are to take care of the business of the Kingdom of God by releasing the Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven! I love how Matthew 6:9-13 reads from the

One New Man Bible which reveals Jewish roots: *“Our Father, Who is in the heavens: Your name must at once be made holy. Your Kingdom must now come: Your will must be done right now, as in Heaven also on Earth. You must now give us today the things necessary for our existence. You must right now forgive our sins for us, in the same manner as we have completed forgiving everyone of everything, big and little, against us. And do not lead us into temptation, but You must now rescue us from the evil one.”*¹²

This was Jesus Himself teaching this prayer. Why could Jesus speak like this? Because He knew what He came to do—to accomplish through His death, burial and resurrection. He knew He came to release God’s Kingdom once again upon the Earth through those who would believe. In view of what Jesus did, God MUST honor and keep His Word and promises. He MUST! But how does He do that?

Through the authority He’s given to His Believers. His blessings are there for the taking, but we have to step up to the plate with our God-given authority and take hold of them. We do that through decrees. Decrees involve putting our authority to work.

Christian Believers are to bring Heaven to Earth! Jesus brought and gave us the Kingdom of God. It’s our business. It’s our government (that which governs us). It’s our power and authority. It holds all the tools we need for effective and productive life and ministry! We cannot live from Earth upward—we must live from the Kingdom aka from Heaven, downward. We are now seated with Jesus Christ: *“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, . . .”*¹³

If we do not understand and accept the authority that Christ has given us through His finished work and His Kingdom, then faith and trust is not present and declarations and decrees will fall to the ground. We must remember that nothing Jesus ever spoke under authority fell to the ground without producing. As people with His very Spirit in us—the same Holy Spirit Jesus had, should we be walking in the same authority as Jesus?

Yes!

We also have been given favor. However again, favor is something we must increase in. The Bible tells us that *“Jesus KEPT INCREASING in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”*¹⁴

Favor is grace—I get what I don’t deserve. God’s love for each and every one of us is the same. His love is linked to simply being His creation and therefore, His children; therefore His love is unconditional for everyone *while we are still alive upon this earth.* (This is a whole other teaching!)

His FAVOR is *not* unconditional. His FAVOR is appointed to those who love Him, trust Him, obey Him and therefore, are increasing in Him.

A Believer who understands the favor-grace of the LORD and the power behind being a favored person will invoke declarations and decrees with power.

We are given faith! We are given authority! We are people of Divine favor! In fact, in Christ we are always in the year of the LORD’s favor! Jesus Christ is our acceptable liberation and Jubilee!

Obedience

One final thought in respect to declarations and decrees working and manifesting is that of obedience. Obedience is key in the faith, authority and favor to declare and decree.

Therefore, another reason declarations and decrees may fail is disobedience in our life. It is also the reason His favor does not manifest more strongly on us.

Disobedience is related to self-idolatry. It proves a lack of faith and trust in our God. It also proves who we really trust: self.

For instance, if we are making decrees on financial blessing but we're not obeying the Word of God in the area of tithing or giving, the decrees will fall to the ground. Why?

Because obedience is better than sacrifice!¹⁵ Because obedience releases the power of God on our behalf!
Because obedience is an open demonstration of our faith and trust in Him!

Disobedience is a huge and strong spirit in the Church today. Some of this is related to our relationship with the world versus our relationship with God. In other words, we believe what the world-culture teaches versus what the Word of God teaches. We are self-sufficient instead of God-sufficient.

Please remember that the world is under the influence of satan¹⁶so when Believers are influenced by the world, they are actually being influenced by satan himself.

The LORD commands us out of a world-culture. Come out and be separate!¹⁷ We are in the world but not of the world, rather we are of the Kingdom of God. Be sanctified!¹⁸ Be holy!¹⁹

Repentance (forgiveness that produces a turning toward God and going in the right direction) is a must when we realize that we have not been walking in faith, authority, favor, or obedience.

It's TIME for you as a blood-bought child of God and heir with Christ, an ambassador and steward, a king and priest to DECLARE AND DECREE THE POWER OF GOD TO BRING THE KINGDOM TO EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. It's TIME to CHANGE THE LIFE AROUND YOU TO MATCH GOD'S REALITY.

Acknowledgements

1. Philippians 4:19
2. Ephesians 1:3-4
3. Ephesians 3:20
4. Ephesians 6:18
5. Elizabeth A. Nixon; attorney, author and speaker with a heart to inspire and launch others into their divine destiny. She is the founder of the Nixon Law Corporation, a Los Angeles boutique law firm, has been featured in Vanity Fair magazine, and is the recipient of the Business Woman of the Year award. Her book Inspired by the Psalms: *Decrees That Renew Your Heart and Mind* is now available.
6. Todd Bentley; *Making Decrees to Activate the Heavenly Court*; FRESH-FIRE Missions, Evangelism & Revival; freshfireusa.com
7. Hebrews 11:6 NIV & AMP
8. Romans 12:6
9. Romans 4:20; 10:17
10. 2 Corinthians 5:20
11. See Luke 12 & 16; 1 Corinthians 4:1; 1 Peter 4:10
12. One New Man Bible; Revealing Jewish Roots and Power; William J. Morford; True Potential Publishing, Inc. Travelers Rest, SC; www.onenewmanbible.com.
13. Ephesians 2:6 NIV
14. Luke 2:52
15. 1 Samuel 15:22
16. John 16:11; Ephesians. 2:2; 2 Corinthians 4:4
17. 2 Corinthians 6:17
18. John 17:19
19. Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:15-16