

Reminder: The principle, 'God SENDS His Word to heal', can be understood to mean the following:

- A. God's Word itself has in-grained Healing Power and Potential.**
- B. Obedience to the General Word (Logos) Heals us.**
- C. Obedience to a Specific Instruction (Rhema) Heals us.**
- D. An Uttered Command or Decree to Heal.**
- E. Appropriating the Promises of Healing in God's Word By Faith.**

In this session, we **to continue to unpack point D** above - the issue of 'DECREES' (Part E).

A Reminder: 'Decrees' will be explained in Sessions 9 to 13. Here is a layout of this theme :

1. The Definition of Decree
2. Decree is Akin to Prayer and Requires it as its Foundation
3. Agree With Heaven, Then Decree To Earth
3. Personal Purity of the Declarer of the Decree is Primary
4. Disciplined and Pure Speech Accentuates the Power of Decree
5. Decree the Discerned and Determined will of God
6. God's Decreed Word Frames Worlds, Times and Seasons
7. Decrees Are Rooted in Apostolic Doctrine and Their Authority Flows from it.
8. Decree From an Ascended Position in Christ Downward to the Earth
9. Decrees Understand the Nature of the 'Dabar' Word of God
10. Decree With Faith
11. Decree From a Heart of Relational Mastery and Maturity
12. Decree Spirit and Life, Full of Grace, not Your Native Tongue
13. Decree From a 'Moved' or 'Stirred' Spirit
14. Decree in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ
15. Decrees and Their Results Demonstrate the Authority and Power of God's Kingdom
16. Decree to Anticipate and Appropriate a Future Divine-determined reality Now
17. Decree Beyond Your Lifetime
18. Decree and Submission

In this session
we focus on point
(18)

In this session, we focus on the **inter-connectivity between honour, submission, faith and decree**, as is evidenced and illustrated in the account of the healing of the Centurion's servant.

Luke 7:1-10

- 1 When He had completed all His discourse in the hearing of the people, He went to Capernaum.
- 2 And a **centurion's slave**, who was **highly regarded by him**, was sick and about to die.
- 3 When **he heard about Jesus**, he sent some **Jewish elders** asking Him to come and save the life of his slave.
- 4 When they came to Jesus, they earnestly implored Him, saying, "**He is worthy** for You to grant this to him;
- 5 for he **loves our nation** and it was he who **built us our synagogue**."
- 6 Now Jesus started on His way with them; and when He was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself further, **for I am not worthy for You to come under my roof**;
- 7 for this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but just **say the word**, and **my servant will be healed**.
- 8 For I also am a man **placed under authority**, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it."
- 9 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the crowd that was following Him, "**I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith**."
- 10 When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave **in good health**.

Here we see a powerful DECREE, GREAT FAITH, HONOUR and SUBMISSION that the centurion had for Jesus and his servant, and **an accurate understanding of the inner working of AUTHORITY, founded on SUBMISSION**. These are all powerfully interconnected and blend into each other. A decree does not exist in a vacuum. Decree is dependent on these and other factors at play here.

Note Five Things About This Centurion:

1. He Loved God's People And Facilitated Their Corporate Spiritual Development

He loved God's people. Israel at this time was a Roman colony, under Roman government, which taxed them severely. This Italian Centurion was an official of Rome, intent on subjugating the Jews. Yet this Centurion, a leader in the Roman army, commanding at least one hundred soldiers, showed great **love for the Jews** and even built them a synagogue, i.e. he constructed an environment in which spiritual transactions could occur, **thereby facilitating the relationship between God and His people.** The synagogue represented the centre of Jewish life and spiritual education, where spiritual transactions took place benefitting the people. The centurion built a structure to facilitate the spiritual development, progress and upgrade of the Jewish people. We can thus assume he was a man of great discernment and one who loved the God of the Jews. That he served them and aided their spiritual pursuit after God, testifies to his humility and submission to God's people. He was a man of submission.

We too must love the Church, the spiritual family of God and do everything to facilitate or aid its spiritual progress and development.

Principle : **Love the Church and build mentalities, behaviours and actions within your being that will facilitate the spiritual development of the people of God. This disposition fuels the power of your decrees.**

The church is the global Body of Christ. Jesus loved the church (Eph. 5:26) - so must we. Extend this love widely to all in the Body of Christ - not just your family or local church. The more widely you love, the more powerful your decrees. The more widely you love, the more widely the areas into which God can use you to decree. The scope of your decrees grow with the levels of your authority, and the level of your authority escalates as your love grows for the broad and multifaceted expressions of the Church. If you love narrowly, your potential influence in spiritual matters will, for the most part, be limited to that spectrum.

The synagogue built for the Jews was **a corporate place of meeting.** We must seek to be a blessing to the wider corporate Body of Christ. The rate at which your personal needs are met is also dependent on the broadness of authentic relationships in the corporate Body of Christ. God sends help and support from Zion, His Church.

Psalm 20:2 May He send you **help from the sanctuary** And **support you from Zion!**

The Centurion's need of healing for his sick servant at home is met by a **DECREE** released within the prepared context of **HIM LOVING THE PEOPLE OF GOD AND AIDING THEIR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**. You cannot function powerfully in decree with hatred in your heart.

2. He Was a Submitted Man to A Superior, therefore an Authoritative Man in His Sphere

The Centurion did not want Jesus to come UNDER his roof in his home. Jesus coming under his roof symbolises Jesus' adopting a lower rank than the Centurion, who would not have that. Instead, he asked Jesus to speak to his servant from where He stood. He displayed tremendous honour and regard for Jesus. This indicates his humility and submission.

Principle : Your power in decree will grow as your levels of humility deepen. You will ascend and grow higher in the administration of governmental spiritual decrees, the more you descend in the inward disposition of humility and submission.

One of the key Scriptural passages demonstrating humility and submission to access great grace that resists satan is **James 4:6-11**. In the midst of this passage are these awesome verses:

James 4:6,7 But He gives **more grace**. Therefore He says: "God **resists the proud**, But gives **grace to the humble**." Therefore **submit** to God. **Resist the devil** and he will flee from you.

Note that submission is prerequisite to effective resistance of the devil. The devil only flees from one whose resistance of him is borne out from and empowered by a submission to God. Submission to God is an act of warfare, because it is both prerequisite to and the essential empowerment of any capacity of you in Christ to cause satan to flee through your resistance of him. **Submission to God and resistance of the devil are not two separate things.** The one leads to the other and ensures the effectiveness of the other. Your abiding disposition of being submitted to God and His Word is itself the very methodology by which

you resist the devil. Submission to God equates to resistance of the devil. **The humble state and act of submission is an expression of potent spiritual warfare.**

The word 'resist' occurs twice in James 4:6-7 :

- God resists the proud person; but the humble and submitted person is able to resist the devil.

The unsubmitted person is proud and has no spiritual authority, particularly against satanic forces. But the submitted person is authorised to resist satanic forces.

Submission to God is how you resist the devil. Submission is an expression of humility.

Submit = hupotássō

= From **hupó** = under; and **tássō** = to place in order.

= Hence - 'To place under in an orderly fashion'

= Application: To be subjected to another who has the capacity to put aspects of one's life in an orderly arrangement

Jesus submitted or subjected himself to His earthly parents, Joseph and Mary, who parented Him, putting aspects of His life in proper arrangement and order.

Luke 2:51a And He **WENT DOWN** with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in **SUBJECTION** to them ...

Jesus was 12 years old here. He would re-emerge on the scene of ministry at 30 years old. Eighteen (18) years of His life are silent and described by one descriptor, viz, SUBMISSION (subjection). In three and a half years of ministry, from age 30 to 33 and a half, Jesus flowed powerfully in decrees. In Jesus' life - three and a half years of public ministry is foundationed on the mastery of humility and submission for 18 years. We must master submission as an expression of humility to recruit the Grace of God necessary for us to flow powerfully in decrees. Do not stand in defiant and stubborn pride, but bow in humility and submission so that governmental decrees can flow through you.

It takes a **man of authority to recognise and submit to the authority in another.** Acknowledgement of and submission to the authority of another is usually proof of just how authoritative you are. Pride prevents the recognition and regard of the authority the other possesses. **Refusal to regard the authority of another disqualifies you from experiencing the benefits of that authority.**

A wife's submission to her husband's headship is an act of powerful warfare against the wiles of satan. Where a wife is unsubmitted, it gives grounds for satanic attack in her life or in the marriage. Submission is a powerful thing. A wife's submission to her husband within the context of the home is powerful warfare, galvanising the home against satanic attack.

Principle : If you are UNDER authority, you can exercise authority OVER matters

In Luke 7:8, the reason cited by the Centurion for his great authority over others is the fact that he **himself is UNDER authority**. In describing how he commands soldiers under him to 'come' and 'go', one would have expected him to preface this by stating that he has authority **OVER** others. Instead, he qualifies his authority over others by his position **UNDER** another's authority. The posture of humility and submission is a posture of great authority. **Submission is not weakness; submission is the expression of a truly authoritative person.**

Thus, in referencing his position of great authority, he cites his position UNDER the authority of someone else. It is this very dynamic that he sees in Jesus, viz. that because Jesus is a submitted son functioning under the authority of His Heavenly Father, **He therefore is authoritative in the realm of spirit and can thus command healing and life for his servant who was sick unto death.**

Jesus' authority is founded on His own submission to a higher authority, His Father. In the earth, no one has true spiritual authority unless they can actively demonstrate their own function UNDER the authority of another.

Your degree of authority is determined by the depth of your submission. When you can function in submission under the complete command of your Heavenly Father to the leaders He has placed over you, or observe submission in every relationship where this applies, THEN this unlocks or unearths your **inherent** authority already given to you by God.

Submission does not generate authority; it simply activates it within you, providing a legitimate path for its release. Submission is the portal through which spiritual authority flows.

Submission to a higher authority empowers your own authority in the sphere of function God has given you.


The levels to which you grow in authoritative decrees will be dependent on the levels of submission in your own life. The most spiritually powerful person is also the most submitted person of extreme and sincere humility.

Why must conditions and circumstances obey your words of powerful and authoritative decree, when you cannot even submit and obey the authorities that God has placed over your life? You only HAVE Authority because you are UNDER authority. If you are not under anything you cannot be over anything. You cannot rule anything without a strong disposition of humble submission within you.

The Authority of and in Submission

- The submitted man is a man of authority.
- The authoritative man is a man of submission.
- Submission undergirds authority.
- Authority flows out from submission.
- An authoritative son easily submits.
- A submitted son is inherently authoritative.
- Authority is demonstrated by submission.
- Submission unlocks, sustains and validates authority.

Be submitted to the authority in the other
and so express the authority in your sphere.



3. He Honoured Jesus, The Representation of Christ at That Time

He honoured Jesus immensely, even considering himself unworthy for Jesus **to come under his roof**. Although a man of high rank in the Roman military, he saw a ranking in Jesus in the realm of spirit, with attendant authority and power to do what his own authority could not do. He bowed to that authority in Jesus. Again, he does not presume his eligibility to receive Jesus in his home, but bestows on Jesus great accord in his mind such that his home is considered not fit enough to receive such rank and power.

Principle: We can honour Jesus, by honouring those leaders whom He sends to us “In His name” to ‘represent’ Him vicariously. If you cannot receive or honour these sent ones, you cannot honour Jesus Himself.

- Honour your leaders

Honour your spiritual leaders, representative of Christ. Listen and obey them. Obey their counsel, advice, teaching and preaching.

Heb. 13:7 Remember **those who led you**, who **spoke the word of God** to you; and considering the result of their conduct, **imitate their faith**.

Heb. 13:17a **Obey your leaders** and **submit** to them ...

4. The Centurion was a Submitted Man to His Subordinate, Demonstrated in His Esteem for Him.

The Centurion's slave was extremely sick and on the verge of death. Ordinarily, Roman officers would not go through great pains to seek recovery for such a sickly servant. But not this Centurion, he was different. He honoured his slave. His slave was 'highly regarded by him'.

'Highly Regarded' = **Entimos** = honoured, estimable, dear; precious, costly.ⁱ

The Centurion models what the Scripture implores of us to '**BE SUBJECT TO EACH OTHER**'.

Eph. 5:21 **Submitting** yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

1 Pet 5:5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, **clothe yourselves with humility toward one another**, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Phil 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind **regard one another as more important than yourselves**

Whilst his slave ranked functionally beneath him, in his perception of his slave, he placed the slave extremely high in his estimation. He deemed his slave costly, priceless, precious and dear. Hence, he spared no cost in seeking his healing.

Jesus saw in this Centurion, not just a man who knows how to submit to a superior, but one who knows how to be subject to subordinates, expressed in the value placed on them. It was this about him that impressed Christ.

He probably exhausted all available means of healing for his servant. Then HE HEARD ABOUT JESUS. Already having a fear for God as evidenced in his love for the Jewish people, his request sent to Jesus to come home to pray for his slave and the manner in which this played out, reveals his sincere faith in Christ.

Principle : Master honouring ALL PEOPLE in every sphere of your life.

Honour all people who are functionally ranked below you. Accord them esteem and actually reckon them as better or more important than you. Master the principle of being subjected to one another. This is a great key that facilitates the power of decree. Pride negates the power of decree.

Regard and esteem EVERY SINGLE person in the whole world AS FAR BETTER THAN YOURSELF!

Honour your government. If you cannot submit to natural authority, you cannot exercise spiritual authority.

See addendum at the end of this study for specific spheres of relationship where the honour principles needs to be solidly demonstrated.

5. His Faith, Rooted in Submission and Honour, was Unsurpassed in Israel.

The Centurion asked Jesus to simply speak the Word where He was, without even entering his house. Being a man of authority, he understood the nature of VERBAL COMMAND and Jesus' authority over sickness and death. Jesus lauds his faith as GREAT, not yet seen in Israel. His faith was unsurpassed. His faith was actually rooted in the understanding of humility, submission, rank, honour and authority. His faith was equated to honour, for out from his honour of the Lord, his perspective of what the authority of the Lord can accomplish was manifested.

Principle : Great faith in God to do extraordinary things is built on the basis of great submission and honour of Christ or the representation in which He comes.

Consider that in Nazareth, Jesus was dishonoured, but the Scripture cites unbelief as the reason why He could not do mighty works there. **Dishonour leads to unbelief, whereas honour equates to faith.**

Matt.13:57,58 And they took **offense** at Him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without **honor** except in his hometown and in his own household.” And He **did not do many miracles** there because of **their unbelief**.

Your faith will grow commensurately with the degree to which you master the principle of honour in your life. **Faith is facilitated where honour abounds.** Faith flows within an environment of honour. Do not let familiarity with your spiritual leader to blind you to what they represent in Christ. Do not open the door of dishonour for your spiritual leaders. This will negate the development of great faith.

The servant was found in good health at home. Our ‘houses’, both spiritual and natural, will know the supernatural power of Christ when we start to embody principles of humble submission and demonstrated honour to Christ and to those He sends to our ‘houses’. Great grace will attend us and great faith will be exercised for the impossible to be made possible.

▪ **AN OPEN HEAVEN**

Jesus is greater than John the Baptist in every single way. John even testified to the truth of this. Yet, the greater (Jesus) was baptised and submitted to the ministry of the lesser (John). At the point at which Jesus permitted Himself to be baptised by John, the Heavens opened over Him and the Spirit descended upon Him (Matthew 3). Jesus functioned under an Open Heaven. Amongst other contributory factors is the fact of His humility in submitting to John’s ministry. After being baptised and tested of the devil for forty days in the wilderness, people were astonished at His WORDS OF GRACE that flowed from His mouth as He read Isaiah’s scroll in the temple (Matthew 4).

Principle : The heavens are shut over the one who is unsubmitted but open over the submitted son, and when that son executes purpose and communicates the Word of God, grace falls from his lips.

- **DECREES ARE NOT BOUND BY GEOGRAPHICAL DISTANCE**

Jesus, by decree, healed a servant some distance away from where He was (See also the account of the deliverance of the Syro-Phoenician's daughter in Matt. 15:21-28). The scope of spiritual decree is wide, and not limited by geographical spheres. You can decree at one location to another location that is far removed. The Word of God is not bound by time nor distance. Meditate on the verse below:

Paul, bound in prison, could release God's Word via letters and impact whole churches in cities.

2 Tim. 2:9b But the word of God **cannot be chained.** (NLT)

Psalm 19:1-4b

1. The **heavens are telling of the glory of God**; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
2. Day to day **pours forth speech**, And **night to night reveals knowledge**.
3. There is **no speech, nor are there words**; Their **voice is not heard**.
- 4a Their **line has gone out through all the earth**, And **their utterances to the end of the world**.

The Power of God's Word

Psalm 29:3-9

- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; The God of glory thunders, The LORD is over many waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is powerful, The voice of the LORD is majestic.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; Yes, the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, And Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD hews out flames of fire.
- 8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; The LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 9 The voice of the LORD makes the deer to calve And strips the forests bare; And in His temple everything says, "Glory!"

ADDENDUM : **BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING SPECIFIC RELATIONSHIPS**

❖ **The Parent-Child Relationship in the Home:**

Eph.6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Col. 3:20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart. (See also Prov. 6:20; 23:22)

❖ **The Government-Citizen Relationship:**

1 Pet. 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority.

Rom.13:1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed.

❖ **The Elder-Younger Relationship in Mentorship and Training:**

1 Tim. 5:1,2 Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity.

Titus 2:2-8 Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance. Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored. Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds,

with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us

❖ **Employer-Employee Relationship In the Workplace:**

Eph. 6:5-9

Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Col. 3:22-24

Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

❖ **The Elder(s)/Shepherd-Sheep Relationship:**

1 Pet 5:5a

You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders.

Heb. 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

❖ **Spiritual Father-Son Relationship in the House of God:**

Phil. 2:19-22

But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.

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