

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 **unpack point D** above - the issue of 'DECREES'.

God gives a Specific Uttered Command or Decree for Healing or Breakthrough in some respect. Jesus often employed DECREES in healing the sick, by simply speaking forth the discerned will of His Father over the afflicted person with a powerful and authoritative command, e.g. "Be healed"; "Be Cleansed"; "Be made whole", etc. The subject of governmental spiritual decrees is a vast one, and while we explore it here mainly in reference to physical healing, these principles can be applied to any situation in which God's predetermined and foreordained will needs to be enforced in a particular situation.

'Decrees' will be explained in Sessions 9 to 12. Here is a layout of this theme :

1. The Definition of Decree
2. Decree is Akin to Prayer and Requires Prayer 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 Words that are Spirit and Life, Full of Grace - not English
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 in the Present
17. Decree Beyond Your Life-time
18. Decree and Submission

In this session we focus
on points (1) to (4).

1. DEFINITION OF DECREE

A spiritual Decree is an official ruling, equivalent to a law. This word has judicial and governmental overtones. Decrees carry judicial mass. It is legislative. It is an authoritative command to some state on earth to transform and conform itself to comply with God's preordained will. Dr Noel Woodroffe, a well-respected Apostle of Christ, provides this succinct definition of a decree:

"A governmental decree is a speaking forth with faith and power from human lips upon the Earth what God has previously ordained from eternity past."

(Dr Noel Woodroffe)

Decrees dictate and condition Life and Living - they Prescribe Principles that Define our Primary Reality and Resultant Experience.

Certain things, discerned as God's will for the moment, can and must be authoritatively DECREED in order for them to be established.

Job 22:28 "You will also **decree a thing**, and it will be **established for you**; And light will **shine on your ways**.

The principle of decree is 'apostolic' in nature. Not all are apostles, but we all are to be apostolic in our mentality, perspective and behaviour. 'Apostolic' has reference to that which is authentic and was originally in the mind of God for His sons (church) before time began. The Apostolic carries with it strong governmental authority to rule domains on God's behalf in this life. This dynamic, vested within Holy Apostles of Christ, is to be progressively imparted to all saints, primarily through teaching and dissemination of proven Apostolic doctrine. This issue is a vast subject. I reference this here briefly to make us aware that the dynamic of DECREE is firmly rooted within apostolic grace. Connectivity to authentic apostles and their credible doctrines will greatly enhance one's capacity to flow in the administration of decrees.

Decrees assert Heaven's will to be done within Earth's reality. Decrees become all the more important for us to understand and exercise in the times in which we live.

2. DECREE IS AKIN TO PRAYER and THUS REQUIRES IT AS ITS FOUNDATION

A decree is not prayer per se as we understand prayer, but a form of prayer, since prayer's motive is to see Heaven's will being done upon the earth. The authoritative command of Jesus

to curse a fig tree, which dried up, is commonly referenced when illustrating the power of decrees. In the same context, Jesus highlighted the importance of faith and belief when praying. So He spoke of prayer within the same context of just demonstrating the power of a decree.

Matt. 21:19-22

Now in the morning, when He was returning to the city, He became hungry. Seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it except leaves only; **and He said to it**, “No longer shall there ever be any fruit from you.” And at once the fig tree withered. Seeing this, the disciples were amazed and asked, “How did the fig tree wither all at once?” And Jesus answered and said to them, “Truly I say to you, if you **have faith** and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ it will happen. And all **things you ask in prayer**, believing, you will receive.”

Decreeing is akin to prayer and cannot be separated from it, for while decrees are directed to the circumstance, their twin counterpart, prayer, is an appeal to God in Heaven. Prayers and decrees are two sides of the same coin. This dual dynamic is thus **bi-directional**, viz. a command to the issue - downwardly speaking to the issue from an ascended position in heavenly places in Christ, but simultaneously appealing upwardly to God. It is thus a kind of duplex communication. This **keeps us humble**. It is not us, but God working in and through us. The fact that Jesus aligned it to prayer, makes us realise that it is really not US having power within ourselves to decree, but our entire dependance is upon God.

Before Jesus issued His powerful command, “**Lazarus come forth!**”, He first lifted up His gaze toward His Father in Heaven, and in a spirit of prayer offered thanks.

John 11:41 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus **raised His eyes**, and said, “Father, I **thank You** that You have heard Me

John 11:43 When He had said these things, He **cried** out with a **loud** voice, “**Lazarus, come forth.**”

His powerful decree raising Lazarus from the dead was built on the foundation of strong upward prayer to His Father. His eyes were on His Father, before his eyes were focussed on Lazarus. These processes happens almost simultaneously - the one dependent on the other.

Private personal PRAYER and INTIMACY with God becomes a solid foundation upon which public decreeing of God's will is based. You will never grow in public decreeing of God's intent to dysfunctional people and contexts, without mastery in the area of personal private prayer and intimacy with God. What you do in your private place determines how God uses you in the public space. Your personal prayer life must be solid and consistent. When you pray in secret, God rewards you openly (Matt. 6:5-6). Public success is built on the power of your private success in personal prayer.

Personal prayer is an absolute necessity if we are to grow in authority in our governmental decrees for God. It is imperative that we maintain a consistent and vital time of personal prayer - i.e. a specific time in each day set aside for this. This discipline is often neglected today, rationalised on the principle that we pray unceasingly where our spirits are in constant communion with God in the normalcy and routine of daily life. Get back to set times specifically earmarked to active engagement with God in prayer.

Impact and influence via decrees in the **public space** is built upon the **power of intimacy** with God in prayer in the **private place**.

The Examples of Jesus, Daniel and Job in Prayer and Decrees

- Jesus' personal prayer life was an entrenched consistent feature of His life. Hence He could function powerfully in His Father's will in the administration of decreeing with authority, accomplishing great results.

Intimacy with God in the private place will enhance your influence and impact in the dynamic of governmental decrees in the public space. Personal prayer is not an 'optional-extra'; it is a non-negotiable necessity.

Jesus had a **custom** of prayer - prayer is what He did routinely - daily.

Luke 22:39-40a : And He came out and proceeded **as was His custom** to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples also followed Him. When He arrived at the place, He said to them, "**Pray**"

Jesus regularly prayed a long while before each day started.

Mark 1:35 In the **early morning**, while it was still dark, **Jesus got up**, left the **house**, and went away to **a secluded place**, and was **praying** there.

He would also withdraw from the crowds at evening time to pray.

Matt 14:23 After He had **sent the crowds away**, He went up on the mountain by Himself **to pray**; and when **it was evening**, He was there alone.

Learn the art of slipping away from socialising too much, to fellowship with Your FATHER privately in prayer.

Luke 5:16 But Jesus Himself would often **slip away** to the wilderness and **pray**.

Before making critical decisions liking choosing his twelve disciples, He spent the entire night in prayer.

Luke 6:12 It was at this time that He went off to the mountain **to pray**, and He spent the **whole night in prayer to God**.

Jesus demonstrated prayer to His disciples - such that of all the powerful proficiencies and abilities they saw exhibited in Jesus, the thing they asked Him to TEACH them was HOW TO PRAY - not how to preach - nor how to flow in powerful decrees. They wanted to master what they saw as the foundational reason for all of Jesus' successes, viz constant and focused personal prayer.

Luke 9:18 And it happened that while **He was praying alone**, the disciples were with Him, and He questioned them, saying, "Who do the people say that I am?"

Luke 11:1 It happened that while **Jesus was praying in a certain place**, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "**Lord, teach us to pray** just as John also taught his disciples."

Luke 9:28 Some eight days after these sayings, He **TOOK along Peter and John and James**, and went up on the **mountain to PRAY**.

- **Daniels's prayer life** is a powerful example of DECREE - especially in chapters 9 and 10 of his book. But this entire administration is founded on a lifestyle of intense prayer. Daniel prayed three times a day, a custom/habit he established from his youth, which he maintained. Many desire the **power** of Daniel, but not willing to emulate his **profile**, and specifically his disciplined life of **prayer**.

Dan. 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, **he entered his house** (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward

Jerusalem); and he **continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying** and giving thanks before his God, as **he had been doing previously**

- **Job's decreeing potential was built upon strong personal prayer too.**

Job 22:26-29

26 “For then you will **DELIGHT** in the Almighty And **LIFT UP YOUR FACE** to God.

27 “You will **PRAY TO HIM**, and He will hear you; And you will pay your vows.

28 “You will also **DECREE A THING**, and it will be **established for you**; And light will **shine on your ways**.

29 “When you are cast down, you will **speak with confidence**, And the humble person He will save.

Note : Job shall **DECREE** a thing, and it shall be **ESTABLISHED** for him (see verse 28).

If there is no decreeing, there cannot be any establishment.

The power of decree is accentuated by **powerful private prayer (Job 22:27)**. This will result in **confident** speech (**Job 22:29**). Prayer in itself is not powerful - but the prayer of the RIGHTEOUS man is. Similarly, the act of speaking and decreeing in itself does not make you powerful. Purity of heart and private prayer, undergirding this speech, does.

Confident speech is the result of **strong prayer**. Confidence is ‘**parrhesia**’ in the Greek, meaning, “**bold, unreserved, frank, unambiguous and exact speech**”. This is the nature of powerful decrees. It is bold, frank, unambiguous, unafraid and extremely focussed as it declares God’s intent. This level of confidence in decree is founded on strong prayer - times spent with God. The apostles, Peter and John, were uneducated and untrained men, yet their confidence and boldness of speech was noted and this was specifically attributed to the fact that they had ‘been with Jesus’.

Acts 4:13 Now as they observed the **confidence** of Peter and John and understood that they were **uneducated** and **untrained** men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as **having been with Jesus**.

Power in decree is not dependent on your secular training or level of education. Peter and John transcended this dynamic. The singular factor that gave them confidence in the execution of God’s purposes was that they spent time with Jesus.

Lead a disciplined prayer life. Breakthrough happens because of what you **do daily**. Jesus and Daniel had a CUSTOM of daily prayer. Do not wait for crisis to inform your resolve to pray, because when the crisis lifts, prayer will wane. In crisis, though, you will reflexively pray, because it is what you do routinely.

Give yourself to prayer:

Psalm 109:4b

NKJV : But I give myself to prayer.

NIV : But I am a man of prayer

TPT : I will pray until I become prayer itself

God does honour 'sacrifice'. It is costly and a sacrifice to develop a strong personal prayer life. But it is worth it! Do not negotiate or rationalise your way out from the need to designate times set aside specifically for more focussed and intensive personal private prayer.

3. AGREE THEN DECREE

In decreeing God's will to be done of the earth, the release of words from our mouth **AGREE** with Heaven's Words. Our **DECREE** is nothing more than an **AGREEMENT** with God's predetermined will. You cannot **DECREE** if you, in your heart, do not **AGREE** with God's will. Where two or three shall agree as upon touching anything, it will be done for them by the Father - (Matt.18:19).

Commanding the sick to be healed is a decree of God's discerned and established will for the person to be made whole.

4. PERSONAL PURITY OF THE DECLARER OF DECREES IS PRIMARY

Job 22:26-30

26 "For then you will **DELIGHT** in the Almighty And **LIFT UP YOUR FACE** to God.

27 "You will **PRAY TO HIM**, and He will hear you; And you will pay your vows.

28 "You will also **DECREE A THING**, and it will be **established for you**; And light will **shine on your ways**.

29 "When you are cast down, you will **speak with confidence**, And the humble person He will save.

30 "He will **deliver one who is not innocent**, And he will be **delivered through the CLEANNESS OF YOUR HANDS.**"

Job 22:30 above highlights **personal purity** - the **cleanness of our hands** as prerequisite to powerful decrees. This refers to practical righteousness.

Illustrated here is the power of pure decree delivering someone who is guilty in some matter. Many times Jesus decreed provision, breakthrough or healing for some who were not eligible to receive it. Yet their ineligibility did not negate their reception of it. They received it because of the state, mentality and compassion of Jesus, the One making the decree.

Keep your heart pure and your hands clean:

Psalms 24:3,4 Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has **clean hands and a pure heart**, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully.

'Hands', in scripture, generally allude to the execution or carrying out of responsibilities or tasks. This dynamic must be kept clean in all you do. In your responsible engagements in this life, do everything with integrity and purity of both motive and method.

5. DISCIPLINED AND PURE SPEECH ACCENTUATES THE POWER OF YOUR DECREES

We must strive to preserve the purity of our spirits - our hearts. Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. The heart must be pure and filled with God's Word and Spirit, if the mouth is to issue forth powerful Divine decrees.

Luke 6:45 The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; **for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.**

The primary instrument of decree is the heart, released through words from the mouth. We must strive to keep our tongues pure and clean, viz. keep the content of our private and public conversations free from filth, carnality, foolish jesting and negative speech, etc. Decrees require the release of words from our mouths. Thus, our mouths, words, conversations must be free from guile, bitterness, unforgiveness, etc. Bitter and sweet water cannot flow from the same fountain. Bitter speech cannot decree.

James 3: 8-12

But no one can **tame the tongue**; it is a **restless evil and full of deadly poison**. With it we **bless our Lord and Father**, and with it we **curse men**, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both **blessing and cursing**. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. Does a fountain send out from the same opening both **fresh and bitter water**? Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

You cannot speak in tongues for one hour and then scandalise your brother carnally for the next ten minutes. Something is seriously wrong here. Surrender your tongue to God, if you claim that your heart is surrendered to Him. Jesus cannot be 'Lord' of your heart and not exercise lordship over your tongue.

Isaiah's lips needed to be purged, if his mouth was to be used as a prophetic oracle of God.

Isaiah 6:9-11

Then I said, "Woe is me, for **I am ruined!** Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among **a people of unclean lips**; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a **burning coal** in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. **He touched my mouth** with it and said, "Behold, this has **touched your lips**; and **your iniquity is taken away** and your sin is forgiven."

Isaiah is aware that his lips are unclean, and immediately references his company as unclean. Bad company corrupts good manners and spoils pure speech. To purge your conversation, first purge your company. You will never rise above the character of the conversations you are privy to - with those whom you socialise the most.

Prov. 13:20 He who **walks with wise** men **will be wise**, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.

To change the lips, change the company.

Our lips need the touch of God's hot COALS of purification!

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

We must surrender our tongues to God. Our SPEECH must be SALTED with GRACE

Col 4:6 Let your **speech always** be with **grace**, as though **seasoned with salt**, so that you will **know** how you should **respond to each person**.

MAY YOUR WORDS BE WISE AND PROMOTE HEALTH TO THE SICK AND WEARY

Thoughtless, careless and rash speech destroys, but wise words promote health and healing. Healing can flow from the mouth of one who speaks the words of God in wisdom. We must not speak words that hurt each other, but rather words that heal each other.

Prov. 12:18

NASB There is **one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword**, But the **tongue of the wise brings healing**.

NIRV **Thoughtless words** cut like a sword. But the **tongue of wise people brings healing**.

NKJV There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the **tongue of the wise promotes health**.

Never engage in HURTFUL SPEECH. Never speak to deride or demean the other. May your speech and conversations be in keeping with the character of Christ. Use your words to speak spirit, grace, life, encouragement and redemption!

May your words be filled with wisdom and bring healing and health to all you come into contact with today. Wisdom is actually essential in the matter of decreeing. Wisdom is personified and is speaking here in the following verse:

Prov. 8:15 By **me** (i.e. wisdom) **kings reign**, And **rulers decree justice**.

Wise decrees could manifest in the form of wise counsel, guidance or advice given to others. A decree can happen in normal conversation. You can speak quietly, and yet decree powerfully in the same vein. A decree need not be loud, bombastic or eloquent. The most simplistic of words can carry the powerful and substantive authority in decreeing.

It is possible for God to supernaturally give you utterance to **transform the physical or emotional state of someone**. Isaiah 50:4 calls this the 'tongue of the learned', that results from keen listening to God. **Accurate decreeing is dependent on accurate hearing**.

Isaiah 50:4 The Lord God has given Me the **tongue of the learned**, That I should know how to **speak a word in season to him who is weary**. He awakens Me morning by morning, **He awakens My ear To hear** as the learned. **(NASB)**

Isaiah 50:4 The Sovereign Lord has given me **his words of wisdom**, so that I know how to **comfort the weary**. Morning by morning **he wakens me and opens my understanding to his will**. **(NLT)**

Whatever Word God sends **INTO** the Leader, that word **LIGHTS** or **FALLS UPON** those he leads.

Isaiah 9:8 The Lord **SENT a WORD** into **Jacob**, and it hath **LIGHTED** upon **Israel**. **(KJV)**

Whilst the term 'Jacob' is a reference to the person, at times it is a general descriptor and substitute for the nation of 'Israel' (as is the term 'Ephraim'). Thus, we may interpret 'Jacob' in two ways in this verse:

- (1) As the **leader of the nation**. When God wants to impact a people-group and infuse His character and will into them, He will work in and through His chosen leader of the people. God speaks to the FATHERS (Heb. 1:1-3) - heads of households. The letters to all the churches in the book of Revelation were address to the 'angels' of the churches, These were leaders of each congregation.
- (2) Recall Jacob's name (meaning supplanter, deceiver) was changed to Israel (meaning 'One who has power with God'). Hence, we could see 'Jacob here as **that carnal dimension that the Word ENTERS to judge or correct**, so that the Word can 'light' upon the changed nature, Israel. If Israel is to decree and speak on God's behalf, the Word must first enter Jacob - to adjust and correct the Jacob dimension in Israel, so that Israel, who has power with God, can authoritatively decree God's word.

God's Word must first be sent into us to firstly adjust and correct us, then be decreed through us.

Gen 49:2 "Gather together and hear, O sons of **Jacob**; And **listen to Israel** your father.

When people hear you speak, they must hear the Israel in you, not the Jacob in you.

[To be continued]

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