

This is a season of decrees and declarations
Effective and answered prayer is not always lengthy!

In every age, generation and dispensation there must be a people who are able to discern the times and offer godly counsel direction and instruction for the advancement of God's Kingdom (1Chronicles 12:32). As we review some Scriptures my hope is this will prove to be a current season word for you that revolutionizes your prayer time and increases your expectation of God's answer to your prayers.

The Lord spoke to my heart and said that as the church we have entered a season where our most powerful prayers will often be composed of word inspired, sincere, one sentence decrees and declarations!

A decree means, "A royal edict or statute, commandment, commission, decree, law, a judicial sentence, to be commanded, judgment, chancellor, (Strong's H1881, 2942, 2941)

To declare means, "To inscribe, to front i.e. stand boldly out opposite, (by implication) cause to manifest; to announce (always by word of mouth to one present) to expose, predict, divulge certainly, certify, declaring, expound fully, plainly, profess, rehearse, report, speak surely, utter, shew forth, speak, talk, tell out" (Strong's H5608, 5046).

To sum it up, as kings and priest of God we have the authority to speak forth edicts (a proclamation having the force of law) over our lives, situations and circumstances and can expect total compliance from that which we have spoken to. The Lord has given us the authority to announce in the face of the enemy what will accept in our lives. The devil does not have the right to dictate our life's journey. Only when we abdicate our authority in Christ through sin can the enemy call the shots in our lives.

When a law is made it is firmly established and does not need to be made over and over again. The law will have to be enforced, normally through punishments to gain compliance but it does not need to be made over again.

The Lord used one sentence decrees at the time of creation saying, "Let there be light and there was light" (Genesis 1:3). We are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26) and are expected to make declarations like our Creator and should expect to see them to come to pass.

Prayer is a primary vehicle through which the law of God is established in the earth and the lives of people. We will see this truth in action in the following Scriptures.

In James 5:17-18 it states:

¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

We note in verse 17 of this reference that Elijah earnestly prayed that it would not rain and it did not rain for three years and six months. When I first reviewed this verse my immediate thought was that Elijah must have spent a great deal of time in prayer over this matter to have God respond in such an incredible fashion.

The event of this miraculous answer to prayer is found in 1 Kings 17:1-6:

And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, **“As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”**² Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying,³ **“Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. ⁴ And it will be *that* you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”**⁵ So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.⁶ **The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.”**

Did you note anywhere in this reference that mentions Elijah asking the Lord to withhold the rain for three years and six months? Did you read something that states Elijah went into deep intercession to stop the rain? I did not see anywhere that suggests he prayed about this matter and I have checked many translations of this account. What is obvious is Elijah made a sincere and powerful declaration to King Ahab that there would be no rain during the stated time frame and it happened just as he declared it would be. His declaration was his prayer!

The power of an earnest and sincere declaration should never be underestimated and especially at this season. Some of the problems, challenges or situations we face will simply require that in faith, we declare the word of the Lord over the matter and then stand back and watch the Lord honor His word. Job 22:27-28 states:

**²⁷ You will make your prayer to Him, He will hear you, and you will pay your vows.
²⁸ You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; So light will shine on your ways.**

The Lord’s promise to us is that when we make or direct our prayers to Him and keep the promises we make to Him, we will have answered prayers. From the time the declarations and prayers leave our mouths, heaven is activated to respond and get the answer to us. The Lord’s response may sometimes take years to manifest but that does not mean the answer is not on its way or that we have to keep praying about the matter. At times we simply need to make a declaration about the situation we are facing and trust God for the outcome to manifest in His

perfect timing. Let the Spirit of the Lord instruct you on when to make a onetime declaration and when to travail in prayer until the answer manifests.

The power of one sentence declarations is also noted in Joshua 6:26 and 1 Kings 16:34 as seen below:

²⁶ Then Joshua charged *them* at that time, saying, “Cursed *be* the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates.” Joshua 6:26

³⁴ In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest *son* Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun. 1 Kings 16:34

Joshua made a decree over the lives of anyone who sought to rebuild Jericho and over 500 years later (NKJV notes) the word came to pass in the lives of those who were not even conceived when the word was spoken! One decree hung around in the spirit realm for 500 hundred years waiting for its time of manifestation in the earth!

There are two things the Lord would have us ponder from these Scripture verses.

Firstly, it is important for us to be very careful of what we allow to come out of our mouths especially in a season where our declarations carry greater potency and effect. We are cautioned in Proverbs 18:21 that:

**²¹ Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue,
And those who love it will eat its fruit.**

Notice that the word death is mentioned first and perhaps it is because we as humans have the propensity to speak negatively rather than positively about challenges we are facing. We need to be careful not to blurt things out of our mouth that can grossly impact the trajectory of our lives and that of others. Death should only be released from our tongues to usurp the stratagems of the powers of darkness against our lives.

Secondly, we need to consider it is possible that we are currently reaping blessings or curses in our lives because of decrees spoken over us long before we were born. As noted in the previous Scripture references it took over 500 hundred years for the curse to be activated. Are there some satanic declarations or time released curses that are about to be activated in our lives because we are ignorant of their existence? If we will seek the Lord, He will graciously reveal to us what is looming in the atmosphere of our lives and will equip us with a strategy to break its power and effect.

Now let's take a look at the two types of prayer employed by Elijah concerning the cessation of rain for three and a half years and the reinstatement of rain that ended the drought.

As noted in 1 Kings 17:1 the rain ceased through one powerful and sincere declaration which was, **“As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”**

In 1 Kings 18:41-45 we note that Elijah offers a different type of prayer before the Lord concerning the same matter. It was a prayer of travail and persistence. Apparently the season for a one sentence decree had passed and the reinstating of rain would call for a more profound effort in prayer. The account reads:

“⁴¹ Then Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink; for *there is* the sound of abundance of rain.” ⁴² So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, ⁴³ and said to his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea.”

So he went up and looked, and said, “*There is nothing.*” And seven times he said, “Go again.”

⁴⁴ Then it came to pass the seventh *time*, that he said, “There is a cloud, as small as a man’s hand, rising out of the sea!” So he said, “Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare *your chariot*, and go down before the rain stops you.” ⁴⁵ Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.”

From these Scripture references we see two very different approaches to *answered* prayer.

A successful and impactful prayer life is indeed dependent upon several principles, one of which is to know what kind of prayer a situation requires. We must also be able to discern the times and seasons so that we are able to move in the most appropriate form of prayer to address the challenges of the season.

I want to end by cautioning us as leaders whether in the home, church or marketplace to exercise due care in the things we say over the lives of others. Notice that the two examples of those who spoke powerful decrees were men of great authority in the Lord. This says to me that the more authority we carry the greater impact and influence our words will have in our lives and that of others.

In the following Scripture reference, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees (leaders) for their harsh words against His miraculous works (Matthew 12:22-37). The same rebuke is extended to today’s leaders who undermine the work (growth, development, character, stability etc.) of the Lord in the lives of others:

“³⁶ But I tell you, on the day of judgment men will have to give account for every ^[a]idle (inoperative, nonworking) word they speak.

³⁷ For by your words you will be justified and acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned and sentenced.” Matthew 12:36-37 AMP

This prophetic word is not meant to be an exhaustive lesson on prayer but rather serves as a tool to alert us to the type of prayer that is potent and effective in this season.

May our godly decrees and declarations advance the Kingdom of God and trample the kingdom of darkness!

Sincerely,

Apostle Jael J Hodge

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