

DIVINE DE

DIVINE DECREES

Adegboyega Adejobi

“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” – Isaiah 55: 10- 11

A decree is an official command or decision with the force of law. It is an order or judgement. God’s pronouncements, once released become everlasting decrees that can only be changed by Him. He oftentimes releases these decrees directly through authority figures.

Authority figures are human beings occupying certain key positions in life and so have spiritual authority over others. Such include husbands having spiritual authority over their wives, parents over their children, masters over their servants and pastors over their congregations. The list goes on.

Examples abound in Scripture regarding men who wielded this type of spiritual authority over others. In the interesting story of Esther, king Ahasuerus exercised this sort of authority in dethroning queen Vashti while at the same time he enthroned Esther as queen. At another time when queen Esther appeared before him when she ought not to, the king used his prerogative of power to spare her life by stretching forth his sceptre towards her. She could have been killed had the king not done so.

In Genesis 49: 1- 33, Jacob at the point of death prophetically blessed his children, declaring what the future of each one of them would be. This

honour has every parent especially the father. Again, whereas Elijah commanded the double portion of his anointing on Elisha if he could see him the moment he would be taken away, Elisha decreed the leprosy of Naaman upon the life of Gehazi because he was dishonest, unfaithful and lusted after the carnal rewards of Naaman instead of consecrating himself and trust God to bless him.

Generally, anointed men of God stand in for Him to decree things that are not into being. However, it pertains more to the office or ministry of a prophet to do this. Prophets constitute a special class of men in themselves. For example, the prophet Samuel had this wonderful testimony that,

“...The LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD?” (1Samuel 3: 19- 20).

What that means is that virtually every word that proceeded from the mouth of Samuel came to pass. This works in two ways. First of all, they are God’s confidants as prophet Amos revealed in his book (Amos 3: 7) that the Lord God does not do anything without revealing it to His servants, the prophets. Secondly, prophets represent God and speak for Him. In that sense, a prophet is to God what a wife is to her husband. In any good and successful marriage, the wife does not need to confer with her husband every time on all matters in order to commit him especially if they’ve been married for a while.

In a short while, a wife becomes so close and intimate with her husband to the extent of committing him on certain matters without prior consultation or discussion with him over such. This comes as a result of the fact that she has become so acquainted with her husband and fully understands him to the point that she could say precisely what he would say or how he would act in any given circumstance or situation.

Eli pronounced the blessing on Hannah that her petition had been granted at the annual feast in Shiloh though he initially took her for a drunken woman. God honoured his pronouncement; Hannah conceived and had Samuel. The same Eli was the one who guided the boy – Samuel and helped him to know that it was God calling him despite the fact that he himself had backslidden and ran out of favour with God. He definitely had experience with God.

Elijah was one of such great prophets of God. He decreed that there would neither be rain no dew in Israel for a space of three and a half years and it

was so. The same Elijah single-handedly confronted, defeated and slaughtered all the four hundred and fifty false prophets of Baal that king Ahab was breeding. He blessed the widow of Zarephath after she had fed him and from that day her cruise of oil did not run dry and her jar of flour was never empty just as he said it. The most interesting thing in all this is that we all can truly be like Elijah. After all, the bible confirms that he was a man subject to like passions as we are. Really? Let's confirm it together. The bible says, *"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. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruits"*(James 5: 17- 18).

It is actually possible for you and I to prophesy like Elijah did. The promise of God in His word to us is: *"You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; so light will shine on your ways"*(Job 22: 29). However, for us to operate in the anointing and authority of Elijah, we must fulfil certain conditions. These include the following:

1. Draw near to God with all your heart - Ps.42: 1-2, Jer.29: 13, Jam.4: 8.
2. Love Him and delight in Him - Deut.6: 5, 10: 12, 11: 1, Matt.22: 35-38.
3. Practise inner holiness and outward purity - Lev.20: 7,Ps.15: 1-end, Heb.12: 14.
4. Be prayerful - Lk.18: 1, 1Thess.5: 17.
5. Practise separation and self-denial - Matt.16: 24, 2Cor.6: 14-18.
6. Guard your lips and be careful with words – Ps.141: 3, Prov.18: 21, Jam.3: 2.
7. Trust God and believe His word – Ps.20: 7, 25:1-2, Mk.11: 24, Heb.11: 6,1.

God bless you.

Note: - All scriptural references are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.