

Praying, Declaring, and Decreeing Compared:

Aspect	Praying	Declaring	Decreeing
Direction of Speech	Directed to God	Spoken to oneself, others, or spiritual circumstances	Spoken as an authoritative command or spiritual law
Primary Stance	Petition, request, humble intercession	Profession, testimony, agreement with Scripture	Execution of authority, spiritual court/regal command

Scriptural Basis	<i>"Ask and it will be given to you..."</i> (Matthew 7:7)	<i>"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope..."</i> (Hebrews 10:23)	<i>"You will also declare/decreed a thing, and it will be established..."</i> (Job 22:28)
Underlying Tone	Submission to God's ultimate will	Bold declaration of existing truth	Authoritative mandate under divine commission
Common Context	Personal devotion, general intercession, liturgy	Faith confession, overcoming doubt, testimony	Spiritual warfare, Charismatic/Word of Faith practices

1. Praying (Petition & Intercession)

- **What it is:** The foundational form of spiritual communication—talking with God. It encompasses petition (asking for needs), intercession (praying for others), thanksgiving, and worship.

2. Declaring (Confession & Affirmation)

- **What it is:** Publicly or privately stating out loud what God has already revealed or promised in Scripture. It is an act of aligning your tongue with biblical truth. Rather than asking God to do something, you are stating what is already true in the spiritual realm. For example: *"I declare that God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind."* (2 Timothy 1:7).

3. Decreeing (Commanding & Establishing)

- **What it is:** Issuing a spiritual mandate or command based on delegated divine authority. This practice—popularized primarily in Pentecostal, Charismatic, and Word of Faith traditions—treats the believer as a royal ambassador who speaks God's decisions into existence. Decreeing is directed outward toward spiritual forces, physical conditions, or obstacles rather than toward God (e.g., commanding a disease to leave or peace to come upon a region).

Theological Nuance & Controversy

- **Traditional View:** Most mainstream Protestant and Catholic traditions view **prayer(petition & intercession)** not declaring or decreeing as the primary biblical standard . They treat "decreeing" with caution, emphasizing that humans do not hold sovereign authority to command outcomes.
- **Charismatic / Word of Faith View:** Proponents argue that Jesus gave believers power and delegated authority (e.g., Luke 10:19, Mark 11:23) to command mountains to move, making decreeing and declaring valid expressions of faith to exercise kingdom power on Earth.