

## **Practising the prophetic**

Prophecy is a 'big umbrella'. It covers a wide range of ministry that expresses God's revelation to the World.

Prophecy in the Old Testament Age was mediated through a prophet, who may have had a school of disciples but could operate in quite an autonomous way, accountable to God alone.

Prophecy in the New Testament is through a prophetic people where the prophetic colours all of us and is something we are all encouraged to seek.

### **Four levels of Prophecy**

1. **Ecstatic**            *e.g. 1 Sam 10 v 5*
2. **Inspirational**    *e.g. 1 Corinthians 14 v 4*
3. **Revelatory**        *e.g. Acts 11 v 28*

#### **4. Directive pronouncement / authoritative foundations (scripture)**

*e.g. Acts 5 v 9/2 Peter 20 & 21 (usually linked to prophetic or apostolic office)*

There is clearly an increase in prophetic weight and responsibility at each of these levels.

### **Some thoughts and questions...**

- What do **you** understand by the word "prophecy"?
- Read 1 Corinthians 14 – Why does Paul believe it of particular importance to eagerly desire or pursue the gift of prophecy?
- Can we honestly say that we are personally obeying this imperative?
- How might we therefore respond to this command? Practical ideas?
- John 10 talks of the Shepherd and how we, His sheep, 'hear and know his voice. Many Christians often struggle with this concept. How does God speak to you? How can you identify God's voice from the multitude of other "voices" we hear? Share your experiences with the group.
- Read 1 Thes 5:19-21,,, what might the writer mean? How might we put out the Spirit's fire? Can we be guilty of that in our own lives? In the church? In the city? In the nation?
- We are told to test everything – how practically should we do that?
- Will I commit to earnestly seek to hear God more this week, not just for my benefit but also to "edify" others?