

SCHOOL OF
PROPHETS
AOTEAROA



WEIGHING A PROPHETIC WORD

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A note from Lyn



Hi, I'm Lyn Packer and I lead the School of Prophets Aotearoa.

God loves to speak to us, and one of the ways He does that is through the gift of prophecy. But how do we know if a prophetic word is from God?

True prophetic words from the Lord are powerful. They carry within them the creative power of God to establish, build, strengthen, and encourage, as well as to tear down wrong mindsets, show us the path of righteousness, and more. Looking back at the prophetic words spoken over my life, the majority of them have been a blessing, but sadly there have been others that have left me feeling confused and ill at ease, and for many years I didn't know what to do with those words – were they from God, or not? How could I tell? Shouldn't I just trust that the person giving them heard from God and delivered them correctly? There were so many questions that at the time I had no answers for.

When I learnt how to weigh prophetic words it brought a sense of relief and clarity that was a huge help.

In this guide I'm going to share some things with you that I pray will help you as you weigh the prophetic words spoken over you personally, but also those you hear in church, or read on social media and prophetic websites.

I pray that you'll find this training as helpful as I've found it in my own life.

Bless you heaps

Lyn

LET'S DO IT!



WHAT SCRIPTURE TELLS US

Prophecy is to be given in a way that follows the protocols laid out in the Bible for the use of the gifts. The most well-known protocol is found in 1 Cor 14:3, where it tells us that prophecy should “*strengthen, encourage and console*”.

Other scriptural protocol passages are 1 Cor 13 – it shows us that the gifts should be founded in love, and Gal 5:22-26 – where the fruits of the Spirit are outlined for us. These two passages tell us what the character of a prophetic minister should be like.

The following verses encourage us to weigh the prophetic words we hear, whether they’re spoken over us personally, are a corporate public word, or given over social media and prophetic websites.

*“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt, but **test them all**; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil”* 1 Thess 5:19-22.

In a public meeting – *“Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should **weigh carefully what is said**”* 1 Cor 14:29.

You don’t have to be a brilliant theologian to weigh a prophetic word, but you do need a knowledge of these things – the true nature of God as shown in Christ, how His Kingdom works, and an understanding of general scriptural principles. We’ll give you more details of these as we continue.



WEIGHING A WORD

According to the verses we looked at above, weighing prophecy is often a communal thing, not just a private thing. The reason for this is that we often don't have the full picture, or all of the understanding needed, by ourselves (1 Cor 13:9-12). Invite trusted loved ones and leaders into the process, and listen to their input. They may carry wisdom that you lack in the situation.

Sometimes it's easy to recognize whether a word is from the Lord or not; at other times it can take a bit of processing. The following are some guidelines I use, both in my personal life and in ministry, to weigh prophecy. I ask if the prophetic words align with these things...

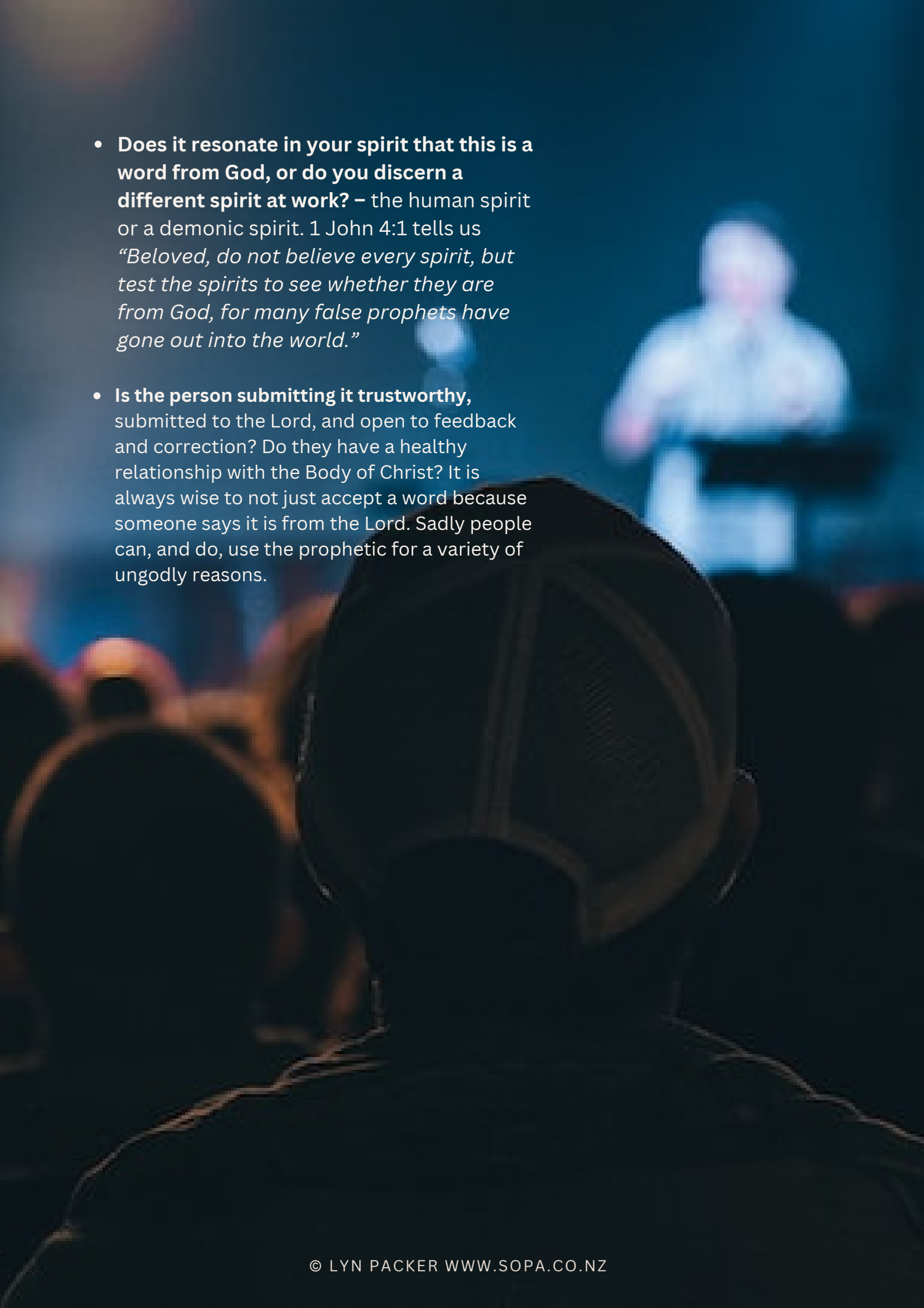
- **Does the word glorify God and draw us closer to the Father, Holy Spirit and Jesus?** *“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”* Rev 19:10. Weigh it against the nature and character of God, as revealed in Christ – the Bible tells us that Jesus is the true image of God. In Col 1:15 Paul reminds us that Jesus Christ is *“the image of the invisible God.”* Again, *“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily”* Col. 2:9. It is *“in the face of Jesus Christ”* that we can know God (2 Cor. 4:6). God is loving, kind, merciful, faithful, steadfast, encouraging etc. And His heart for mankind is that all should know Him, His love and His forgiveness. True prophetic words will never counter that, even a word of correction.



- **Does the Prophetic word follow scriptural guidelines of ‘Encouragement, Exhortation and Comfort?’** *“But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort”* 1 Cor 14:3. Is the word redemptive, or punitive and judgemental? Does this word bring encouragement, comfort and exhortation, or does it bring discouragement and condemnation? Is there any aspect of control or manipulation in this word?



- **A prophetic word should not contradict Scripture in general,** but should be tested, particularly to see whether it is in line with the New Covenant (which is the Covenant that the Church was formed under, and operates in). *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”* 2 Tim 3:16.
- **What is likely to be the fruit of this word?** Do we have a sense of peace about this word and its outcome? *“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere”* James 3:17, NIV.

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- **Does it resonate in your spirit that this is a word from God, or do you discern a different spirit at work?** – the human spirit or a demonic spirit. 1 John 4:1 tells us *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”*
 - **Is the person submitting it trustworthy,** submitted to the Lord, and open to feedback and correction? Do they have a healthy relationship with the Body of Christ? It is always wise to not just accept a word because someone says it is from the Lord. Sadly people can, and do, use the prophetic for a variety of ungodly reasons.

WHEN YOU THINK A WORD ISN'T FROM GOD...

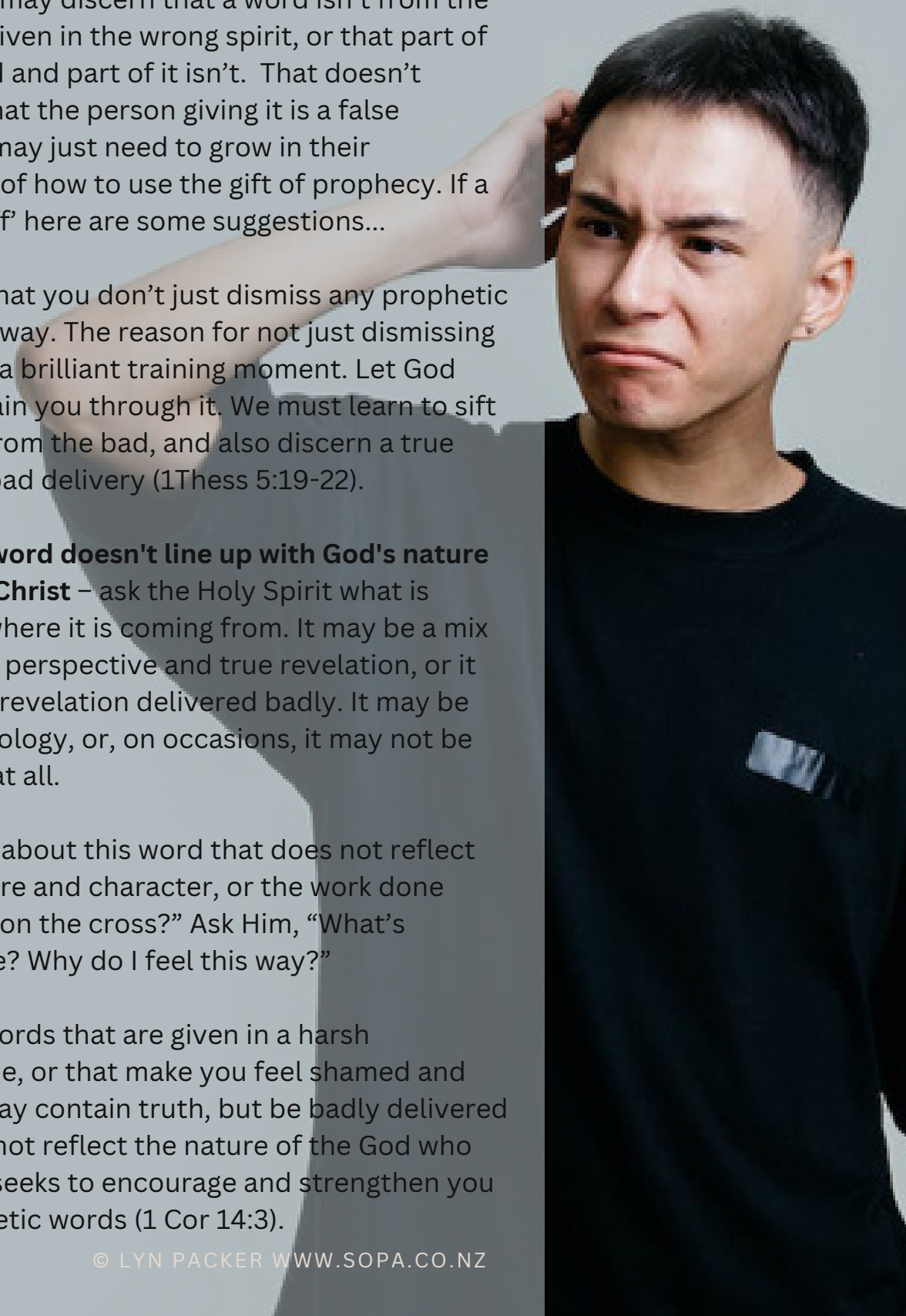
Sometimes we may discern that a word isn't from the Lord, that it's given in the wrong spirit, or that part of it is a true word and part of it isn't. That doesn't always mean that the person giving it is a false prophet; they may just need to grow in their understanding of how to use the gift of prophecy. If a word seems 'off' here are some suggestions...

I recommend that you don't just dismiss any prophetic word straight away. The reason for not just dismissing it is that this is a brilliant training moment. Let God disciple and train you through it. We must learn to sift the good bits from the bad, and also discern a true word within a bad delivery (1Thess 5:19-22).

If a prophetic word doesn't line up with God's nature as revealed in Christ – ask the Holy Spirit what is behind it and where it is coming from. It may be a mix of the person's perspective and true revelation, or it may be a good revelation delivered badly. It may be with wrong theology, or, on occasions, it may not be from the Lord at all.

Ask, “What is it about this word that does not reflect the Lord's nature and character, or the work done through Christ on the cross?” Ask Him, “What's happening here? Why do I feel this way?”

For example, words that are given in a harsh judgmental tone, or that make you feel shamed and condemned, may contain truth, but be badly delivered words that do not reflect the nature of the God who loves you and seeks to encourage and strengthen you through prophetic words (1 Cor 14:3).





When a word just sounds weird – Again, use it as a training moment. Ask the Lord for insight into what was happening. It’s amazing what you’ll learn that will help you not only process what happened, but may also give you understanding and compassion for the person delivering the word.

e.g. One day I had a lady come to me with a word for me that she was sure was from the Lord. That word was “You should never wear black, only purple.” My mind immediately wanted to write her off as being weird, but then I asked Holy Spirit “What was that all about?” He answered that she had recently been doing some research and learning about colour meanings in the Bible, and she had seen I was wearing black and concluded that, as a child of God, I shouldn't wear a colour that could represent dark things. She mistook her thoughts as a word from God, and so she had shared it as such. Man, that understanding stopped me from seeing her after the flesh and allowed me to honour her desire to grow and learn.

If a prophetic word would result in bad fruit – Some prophetic words, if believed or followed through on, can result in bad fruit in your life, or in the life of the church. Some words can bring fear into your life and make you feel confused or attacked. Sometimes a bad word can cause you to see others in a different light, to judge them, or even criticise them as a result of believing the word. Some prophetic words portray a wrong image of who God is and how He treats people.

The content of a word may lead to false judgements being set up in the spirit against individuals, or groups of people, and result in accusations being made, gossip being spread, and more...

Check how the word is making you feel and what it’s causing you to think. Ask the Lord to give you His insight and wisdom. Allow Him to cleanse your mind and ask Him to help you see from His perspective.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FEEDBACK

Whenever possible give the person who prophesied over you some feedback regarding the word they gave, or how they gave it.

This will require you to be brave, but it's incredibly important that you step out and give feedback. We can't grow if we don't know we are making mistakes in our delivery of the revelation God gives us.

Sadly, many prophetic people go through their whole ministry life thinking that every prophetic word they give is all from God. They sometimes haven't been taught, or realized, that they see and prophesy in part (1 Cor 13:9), and that as prophetic ministers we often interpret what God is saying through filters – our cultural upbringing, family beliefs, personal values and beliefs, our particular church beliefs, our wounds, our understanding of the Bible, and more... This can affect how we give a prophetic word. For example, if we believe that God is a harsh judge our prophetic words may carry a judgemental tone to them, even if it's a positive word.

A chalkboard with the words "BE BRAVE" written in white chalk. The word "BE" is on the top line and "BRAVE" is on the bottom line. The chalkboard is dark green and the text is written in a simple, slightly cursive style. The bottom of the image shows a white ledge or chalk tray.

The best kind of constructive feedback is given in a respectful tone of voice and focuses on the word and the way it was given, not on the person or their personality; and it's given in a tone that conveys support and respect. Good constructive feedback helps people recognize their mistakes and grow from them, and inspires them to achieve their potential.

You could say something like, *“Thank you for that word; I appreciate you stepping out to share it with me. May I give you some feedback...”* Then tell them the parts that resonated with you, and why they did, but also tell them if something did not, such as some particular part of the content, or if their tone of voice or body language felt threatening or distracting from the content. Finish with thanking them again for giving the word.

If you feel that the word is not from God you have the right to say so. You don't have to automatically accept a word just because a person says that they heard from God.

You could say something like, *“Thank you for sharing that, however it doesn't resonate with me at the moment for these reasons...”* then give them feedback as to why it doesn't. Finish with encouraging them, saying something like, *“However, I will go away and pray about it in case I am mistaken. Again I appreciate you sharing it; I know it takes courage to do so.”*

Then do go away and ask God about it. Gain understanding from the Lord, and if you were wrong in your thinking, come back to the person and let them know that.



IN FINISHING

I'm sure there is more I could have shared in this guide, but Holy Spirit will help you discover other things you need to know as you need to know them; after all, He is the best trainer!

I'm sure that most of the prophetic words you receive will be a blessing to you, but on the occasions that they aren't, knowing how to weigh and process them will help you be a good steward of the information being spoken over you, and will help keep you safe from harm or deception.

My prayer is that you will not only be a good steward yourself, but that you will also use this information to disciple others in how to weigh and process prophetic words. Between us, let's raise up a nation of people who are wise stewards of prophetic revelation!

Arohanui - much love

Lyn

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Thank you

For allowing me to walk alongside
you in your growth journey.

