Hearing God's voice clearly

5 Pitfalls and Misunderstandings

These are the lesson notes for the following YouTube video(s):

- #11 Hearing God's voice clearly

Jeremiah 1:10
See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, ***to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant."***

We sometimes have to root out, pull down and destroy thought patterns, in order to then build and plant. That's what we're going to do now.

We have three key scriptures:

Romans 8:14 (GNT)
Those who are led by God's Spirit are God's children.

John 10:27
My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me

John 16:13-14
However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. [14] *He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.*

- Sheep clearly hear the shepherd's voice.
- Sons and daughters are lead by the Holy Spirit.
- The Spirit leads us, speaks to us and tells us the future.

Everything here happened through the Holy Spirit. The better you know the Holy Spirit, the better you hear and understand God's voice.

1. People think that God doesn't speak or barely ever speaks

The first misunderstanding is that people think and believe that God doesn't speak any more or barely speaks nowadays. That it is a rare event. They think that we just have to make do with the written Word the rest of the time.

2. People think that they don't have to learn / can't learn such things

One way or another, some people think that they don't have to do anything about spiritual things such as:

- Hearing God's voice clearly
- Healing the sick
- Prophesying

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They think that the Spirit just does it through them, that they can't learn to do it or grow and develop in it. They say that if it's really from God, you don't have to learn to do it.

- Spirit
- Soul
- Body

People think that they don't have to learn it supernaturally.

1 Samuel 3:7
(Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him.)

3. People fall back on their natural senses, logic and reasoning

The second mistake that we, as people, make is that we are inclined to base everything on our natural senses, logic and/or reasoning, on natural things.

We're often inclined to trust our natural senses more than the things of the Spirit, because the things of the Spirit are foolishness for our natural senses.

1 Corinthians 2:9-14
But as is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." [10] But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. [11] For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. [12] Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. [13] These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. [14] But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The Bible says that we should be led by His voice and by the Spirit. That means that we should NOT be led by:

- **Our circumstances:** "this has to God because…." or "this can't be God because…"
- **Our emotions**: fear, happiness. (Do not fear!). Or maybe you have to do something you enjoy doing.
- **Our minds**: "that can't be God because there's still so much more pastoral work to be done."

  wrong/fleshly ambition; self-importance.
- **Our enthusiasm**: "this has to be God because it's so good, such a great deal."

We need to trust the Holy Spirit in all these things. Something may well be a great opportunity, but still not be God's will for you. Something might seem impossible but be exactly what God has for you. It requires faith and trust. When we understand, we are in full control. In the things of the Spirit, we have to blindly follow God. The things that God says often aren't logical. God doesn't ever ask us if it's logical or if we think this is a good idea or if we have the money to do something.

4. People miss the supernatural because they're expecting something spectacular

Let's start off this point with a scripture about Elijah.

1 Kings 19:11-13

Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; [12] and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire ***a still small voice.*** *[13] So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

We sometimes expect God to speak to us in some amazingly spectacular way. We might go to a meeting expecting the speaker to pick us out of the crowd and give us the prophetic word we need. Or we expect God to speak to us with an audible voice like He did with Samuel. Those things *can* happen, but they're not the most common way that you'll be led by the Holy Spirit.

- You won't be led by the Spirit through prophets or prophecies.
- You'll be led by a voice on the inside, and only very rarely by an audible voice.

Some people pray, saying, "Lord, if this is from you, then have three red buses drive past me, but Jesus never prayed saying, "Lord, if you want me to go to Samaria, have 4 camels walk past me."

5. We aren't humble but prejudiced – we already think we know what God will say

Hearing God requires attention and humility.

Prejudice: People who are prejudiced think that they know what God is going to say before they pray.

- - Lord, you want me to speak about miracles and healing...
  - No, repentance
- "Lord, this is my future spouse." (The only answer they want to hear is "yes").
  - Yes, I was praying for confirmation and that's exactly when he sent me a message!
  - Of course he did, you send each other messages every day.

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Attention: Take TIME to listen to God. Really set time apart, sometimes even to pray several times. Start by worshiping and praying in tongues, maybe fast too.

- You will sometimes be tested: Sometimes, you're going to have to wait for the right moment. Patience, patience, patience. Now, speak and minister and the next day it'll be confirmed with a prophetic word.
- And if God doesn't say anything? Then you just keep on doing the last thing He told you to do.
- Sometimes, when you think back, and ask yourself what the last thing you read/heard was, you realize that God has been speaking to you for a long time already.

6. We don't do what God tells us to do

We also have to dare to take action/go when God tells us to.

John 10:27 (CEV)

My sheep know my voice, and I know them. ***They follow me,***

This requires faith and trust.

7. We don’t act wisely with what God tells us

- We forget what God said (write it down and take care to take the right steps).
- Don't put on others what God is telling you / putting on your heart, like, “you need to speak more about grace/the end times/Israel”. God is a God of order. If God wants to tell me something, He’ll say it to me. If God wants to say something about Frontrunners, He’ll say it to me or someone on our team who has the responsibility over / a say in it.
- It's often better to never say “God says,”

The 7 Ways in Which God Speaks

Why am I teaching on the 7 ways in which God speaks?

- It's important to know the ways in which God speaks, otherwise you might miss God. Sometimes people say that God hasn't said anything. That might be true, but maybe they just didn't recognize it when he was speaking to them.
- Different people - different ways. Some people want to experience God in one way and others in another way.

God speaks in different ways.

- Different people - different ways.
- Some are very common, others not so much.

Sometimes people say, "God hasn't said anything"; when they actually mean "I didn't recognize the leading of the Holy Spirit".

I'll give them here from the most common to the least common, the most frequent to the least frequent.

1. His Word

The first way in which God always speaks to us is through His Word.

> **2 Timothy 3:16**
> *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, [17]that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

> **Psalm 119:105**
> *Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

It's so important that you read the Word of God and take it in each day. It's bread, food for your spirit. You operate from your spirit, so you need to make sure that your inner man is strong. Some people want to hear God's voice clearly, but don't want to listen to what God already said to them long ago. It doesn't work like that.

The Bible is the spoken Word of God that was written down so that we would read it. It is God's voice. It is what God is saying to us. This is what God said to others before we were around and what God is saying to us now too.

The Word of God tells us what the general will of God is. The Word of God speaks to us, gives us revelation about who He is, directs us, gives us guidelines, wisdom and knowledge, etc. We learn to know God better through His Word. It's always good to fill yourself with it.

The Word of God tells us the general will of God, but not the specific will of God for our lives. The Word of God doesn't tell you who God wants you to marry, where He wants you to work or which Church He wants you to be a part of. The Word of God just gives us general guidelines about such things, such as healthy relationships in married couples, that it's good that we work for a living, and that we join a church.

The thing is, we also need to know the specific will of God, and we can only know that from the Holy Spirit, by clearly hearing God's voice.

- You read the Word and a scripture jumps out at you
- A scripture drops into your mind when you're praying about something.
- God literally speaks a scripture to you.
- Knowledge: don't expect it from Egypt.
- Matthew 2 – take the child and flee to Egypt; Herod is trying to kill Him.

Ensure that you know the Word:

> **Colossians 3:16**
> *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

> **Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)**
> *For the Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

I also don't have to pray about things that God has already said in His Word.

- “Lord should I get baptized?” Yes!
- “Lord do You want to heal me?” Yes!
- “Lord do You want to use me?” Yes!

2. The Inner Leading of the Holy Spirit

One of the most common ways that the Spirit leads us, is by letting us know something, a knowing that just rises up within us on the inside. Become spiritually sensitive.

Traffic lights: what color is your internal traffic light? Red or green? (Romans 1:9)

The Holy Spirit lives in your born-again spirit. The leading of the Holy Spirit isn't always a voice that says something, more often than not it's an impression that He gives you.

Take children as an example. I don't always have to say something to my children to make something clear. Matthew, Sef and Chloe can look at me and if they see that I nod or smile, they know that it's okay and they know it's not okay if I give them a disapproving look or shake my head.

Communication between man and wife is also a good example. Sometimes a woman doesn't have to say anything in order to make her meaning clear.

The Holy Spirit does the same thing with us, giving us impressions. A lack of peace or uneasiness means “no”.

- Lack of peace.
- Maybe you recognize this one: someone tells you to try something and right away you know on the inside that you shouldn't do it. That’s one of the ways that God uses to lead us.
- Someone comes up to you and you know immediately in your spirit that something is wrong. You have a sense of unease.

- An opportunity.
- Example: preaching about finances and provision. Lack of peace. Unease. Don't do it.
- Employees, next to all the natural qualities and qualifications, what do you “feel” peace or lack of peace?

If you feel peace about moving forwards, you know that it's good

Romans 8:6 (ESV)
For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace

Colossians 3:15
And let the peace of God rule in your hearts

Check your heart. Do you have peace about it? If you don't have peace, it's not the mind of the Spirit. If the peace of God doesn't rule in your heart, then it's probably not a good idea to do whatever it is. Dare to trust this. This has nothing to do with your natural senses. It's a traffic light. It can be green or red.

3. A Voice on the Inside

As we've already said, we will mainly be lead from the inside so that means that God will talk to us on the inside. We will hear His voice in our hearts.

Acts 15:28
For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:

Acts 16:6-8
Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. [7] After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. [8] So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

Phrases such as:

- I have it on my heart
- God spoke to my heart
- I heard God say…

Acts 8:29
Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.”

Acts 13:2
As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

This is something you just have to learn to recognize. You can grow in sensitivity to God’s voice. How do you learn to recognize it? Sometimes you know right away that it's God. At other times it's not so clear.

4. Other People

God speaks to us through people.

1. Prophecy, someone sharing the will or counsel of God with you, giving you God's words.

Acts 21:10-11
And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. [11] When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

A prophecy will either confirm what God has already put on your heart or be confirmed afterwards.

2. Counselors. The Bible speaks about counselors. People that you allow to speak into your life.

(Exodus 18:13-20) Jethro.

Proverbs 11:14
Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 15:22
Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

Counselors have to be people;

- They have to be objective.
- They might be in the same position as you are. Someone who is single and doesn't have any children can't counsel you about bringing up your children. Auntie Annie is not the best person for you to ask for advice, if you need to make a business decision about property or something legal or spending a million Euros. Please *ask* people to be your counselors. I see so many Christians make mistakes and get ripped off. Don't be too proud to ask people to give you advice.
- We have all sorts of counselors for spiritual things, but also organizational things. I have 3 or 4 very specific people that I can call and ask a question or get feedback on any given matter. I sometimes even get professional advice. Not everything is spiritual. Sometimes things are spiritual, but I also have to deal with the practical side of things (start a ministry, start a church).

3. Preaching. God uses preacher and teachers to be His voice.

1 Peter 4:10
As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. [11] If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers,

4. Other people, – make the distinction, don't go overboard. People with authority.

Did you know that you can be talking to someone who says one sentence to you and you know it's God? What's more, they're often totally unaware of it.

5. Dreams and & Visions

Dreams are pictures that you receive while you sleep. Visions are pictures that you receive while you are awake.

Acts 2:17

'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.

Dreams

21 dreams in the Bible.

1. Abimelech was warned before he slept with Abraham's wife (Genesis 20).
2. Jacob's ladder (Genesis 28:12).
3. Jacob was told to go home (Genesis 31:10-11).
4. Laban was warned (Genesis 31:24).
5. Joseph dreamed about the sheaves of grain and
6. the sun, moon and stars (Genesis 37:1-10).
7. The baker Genesis 40
8. The wine taster (Genesis 40).
9. Pharaoh - cows
10. Pharaoh - grain (Genesis 41).
11. Soldiers from judges - Gideon (Judges 7:13).
12. Solomon (1 Kings 3:4-15).
13. Nebuchadnezzar - picture (Daniel 2).
14. Nebuchadnezzar - tree (Daniel 4.).
15. Daniel - 4 beasts (Daniel 7).
16. An angel told Joseph not to divorce Mary (Matthew 1:18-24).
17. The wise men from the east were told not to go back to Herod (Matthew 2).
18. An angel told Joseph to go to Egypt (Matthew 2).
19. An angel told Joseph to go back to Israel (Matthew 2).
20. Joseph was told to go to Galilee (Matthew 2).
21. Pontius Pilates' wife had a nightmare, learning that Jesus was not guilty of anything (Matthew 27:19).

God speaks through your dreams. Some people have this more than others. I think I've had about 10 prophetic dreams in my life. They were very specific. I knew that something was going to happen with someone, or I met specific people in my dream. Jan Sjoerd, Rodney Howard Browne, Henrico, Johan Toet, healing (ambulance). Dream in a church, prayed for a young man. The dreams were all as clear as a bell and not vague at all. The meaning was clear. I knew that I knew that I knew that I knew that it was a dream from God.

Femke is extremely prophetic, she sometimes gets even 3 prophetic dreams a night. Dreams that really come from God. She gets dreams in detail about people that we've not seen or spoken to for *years*, about what they're doing, and she calls them and they are in tears on the other end of the line.

You can pray and ask for this. You can't choose it. You can learn to recognize it.

Visions in the Bible

3 sorts of visions (Hagin).

1. **Visions that you see within you,** in your heart. Your natural senses are still active and you're still aware of what's going on around you.

2. **Open visions** - it's as if a video is being played for your senses, as if it's being projected in front of you.
3. **Trances** you're not aware of your natural senses any more, but you're in the spirit; 2 Corinthians 12:1-4, Acts 10:11-15

6 Other Spiritual Experiences

Jesus Appearing to People

To Saul in Acts 9

> **Acts 23:11**
> *But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."*

This is an exception to the norm, I've seen Jesus three times. Once when I got saved, once when I was writing *Touching Jesus* and one other time.

Angels Appearing to People

> **Acts 27:23**
> *For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, [24] saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.*

7. An Audible Voice

God can talk to us with an audible voice.

> **Acts 9:3-7**
> *As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. [4] Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" [5] And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." [6] So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." [7]* ***And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.***

Sometimes God speaks so clearly that you *think* its audible, when it isn't.

Why doesn't He always speak in an audible voice? One: it would be complete chaos. Two: it goes against the New Covenant, the Holy Spirit, God, in us.

Conclusion

These are the 7 ways in which God speaks.

1. His Word
2. The inner leading of the Holy Spirit.

3. A voice on the inside
4. People: prophecy, counselors, preaching and teaching and other people.
5. Dreams and & Visions
6. Other Spiritual Experiences: the appearance of angels or Jesus or the supernatural course of events.
7. An audible voice.

4 Steps to Hearing God's Voice Clearly

Everything here happened through the **Holy Spirit.** The better you know the Holy Spirit, the better you hear and understand God's voice.

> **Habakkuk 2:1-3**
> *I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected. [2] Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. [3] For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.*

1. Relationship

The first key is relationship. You have to have a relationship with someone if you want to understand and recognize their voice, their expressions, and their feelings. This is true in the natural, but the same is also true with God. When one of our kids is crying, my wife immediately knows which one it is. I have to ask, "Who is that? Chloe? Lois?" It's all about relationship. She hears them all day, I'm often gone.

You have to invest time in every relationship. If you want to clearly hear God's voice, you're going to have to build a strong personal relationship with God and therefore invest time in order to do that.

The important thing to remember is that our natural relationships operate mainly from our soul our human side, our reasoning, emotions, will and character, etc. Natural characteristics – natural connections. You have to learn them, but it doesn't work like that with God.

> **John 4:24**
> *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

> **Romans 1:9**
> *For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,*

God is spirit. He's a spiritual being, a spiritual person. The Holy Spirit. He operates from the spiritual realm. We are spiritual beings that have been made alive spiritually and have been reconciled with God. Spirit, soul and body and we now serve God from our spirits.

Build your relationship with God. Invest time in it. You have to in invest time every relationship you have: in your marriage; in your children; in your working relationships with colleagues, and in your friendships. As long as you don't spend any time and pay any attention to a relationship, it gets weaker and weaker.

Hearing God's voice clearly and recognizing the leading of the Holy Spirit is a process. Give yourself time. Don't expect everything to go perfectly the first time or the second time. I found it really hard to clearly hear God's voice and recognize His leading. Just grab hold of His promise. His sheep hear His voice. Don't get worked up; just relax into it. You are going to become more sensitive.

Exodus 33:11
So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend…

1 Samuel 3:7
(Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him.)

I want to be easy to steer. I want to listen immediately.

John 10:27 (CEV)
My sheep know My voice, and I know them. They follow Me,

What else does relationship mean? Very practically:

- Take time to spend personal time with God.
- Share your heart with God.
- Give Him space to talk *with* you.
- Talk with God throughout your day.

2. Be Still. Wait on God. Listen to Him. Pay Attention to Him.

Habakkuk 2:1-3
I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected. [2] Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. [3] For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

- Adam and Eve didn't have a Bible. Abraham didn't have a Bible. Noah didn't have a Bible.
- Exodus 15:26 hearing God's Voice and obeying His Word. There wasn't any law back then. The voice came before the law did.
- The church in the New Testament didn't have any Bibles like we do.

Listen to God.

- Pay attention to Him. Just be still before Him. In faith. Grab a pen and paper. Expect God to speak and tell you something/give you an impression.
- Step into peace / step into the spirit;

The second key is to listen to God / be still before God. Fix your attention on God.

- I was in the spirit.
- You need peace and stillness in your spirit. No thoughts, distractions, to dos on the inside. Focus. Tune in. Worship, read your Bible, pray in tongues. I write down the things that come up or I still need to do to stop them going round and round in my head. It's also why I use a physical Bible and not a Bible app.

- Find what works for you. Some people love to go for a walk or bike ride and talk with God, some love worship music, others silence, etc. Remember it's two-way conversation. Find peace in your head and peace in your heart, etc. It's extremely hard to communicate with someone who is in chaos. You can have chaos around you, without that mattering to you, if you're tuned in to God. Then you can hear God whether you're in a worship meeting or in a bus full of people talking. You just need to tune in, that's all. You just need to focus on Him and worship Him.

3. Hearing/Discerning What God Says

Hearing/Discerning. There's a difference between hearing and listening.

- If someone asks you "Did you hear that?", you're going to listen. You're going to start focusing on what your ears are telling you.

Proverbs 4:20
My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; "For they are life unto those that find them and medicine to all their flesh.)

How Do You Recognize God's Voice?

Gods voice often appears like a thought that comes out of nowhere. That's the best way to describe it. That's the difference between our thoughts and God's thoughts.

Us: Our own thoughts	God: Impressions/Thoughts/Voice
Analytical	Spontaneous impressions
Reasoning	Thoughts that come out of nowhere
Logic	"Voice" in your heart/spirit
Arguments	Impressions
Based on facts, feelings and emotions.	Sometimes really clear, sometimes a whisper, sometimes an impression.

People always ask, "but how do I know if the thoughts are from God or myself?"

That's why we have to practice. Our thoughts are often based on reasoning. God often gives us thoughts that just appear in our mind.

Our thought patterns and the arguments we have in our heads are based on logic, on what would happen if.... and so on. God's thoughts very often seem to come out of nowhere. Our thoughts are often very analytical; God's thoughts are spontaneous.

When God speaks in this way, you just get a sense in your heart that *this is God*. You'll find it easier and easier to recognize His voice.

4. Write Down What God Says To You

Habakkuk 2:1-3

I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected. [2] Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. [3] For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Write down what God says to you.

- Follow through on what God tells you
- You often get more impressions as you start writing down what you've already received.
- If it's God today, it's God tomorrow. Lord, let tell me again a few more times.

Revelation 1:10

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, [11] saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book...