

It is estimated that around 300 direct quotations from the Old Testament appear in the New Testament. References and allusions bring that number closer to 1000. We often take for granted how often the New Testament writers incorporate a quotation or reference from the Old Testament - especially in their conversations, where they appear to be quoting from memory. We need to remember that they had no computers or complete copies of the Old Testament to work with when writing the New Testament.

Jesus quotes the Old Testament around 75 times in His teachings and verbal exchanges with others. Take, for example, His exchange with Satan during His 40-day sojourn in the wilderness. (Matthew 4:1-11) Three times He refuted Satan's temptations by quoting verses from Deuteronomy. Paul quotes or alludes to the Old Testament around 75 times in the book of Romans alone. How did they do this? Memorization and in-depth familiarity with Scripture.

Consider setting a goal of memorizing one Scripture verse or passage each week. After all, the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17), and the foundation of faith. (Romans 10:17)

Psalm 119:11 "Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You."