

## Arnold's Top Ten Biblical Quotations

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In the first of the bimonthly Reflections for the Centennial Year it was mentioned that Romans 5:5 is one of the five Scripture texts most quoted by the Founder. Some have wondered what the other texts are. Albert Rohner published two volumes of the Founder's notes for his retreat conferences and sermons (Analecta SVD 30 + 31) with an index of all the Scripture references in these two volumes. So, it would appear to be an easy task simply to count which texts in the index have the most references. But one also needs to check each reference because sometimes a text is referred to twice in the same talk or is one given in the notes by Rohner. In addition, the Founder occasionally adds a simple list of text references relevant to the theme of his talk but without using any of the texts. With this in mind we can set out the following as the ten texts most often quoted by Arnold Janssen:

1. **Heb 10:4-7** On coming into the world he said, 'You wanted no sacrifice ... but (Ps 40:6-8) you gave me a body ... Here I am, I am coming to do your will, God.'
2. **Lk 4:18** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring (cf. Is 61:1) the good news to the afflicted.
3. **Rom 8:14-17** All who are guided by the Spirit are sons and daughters of God. What you received is the Spirit of adoption, enabling us to cry out, 'Abba, Father.' ... And if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.
4. **1 Cor 3,16** You are a temple of God with the Spirit living in you.
5. **Rom 5:5** The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the gift of the Holy Spirit.
6. **Rev 21:3** Here God lives among human beings. He will make his home among them; they will be his people and he will be their God, God-with-them.
7. **Jn 3:16** God loved the world so much that he gave his Son that those who believe in him may have eternal life.
8. **Jn 15:16** You did not choose me, no, I chose you.
9. **2 Cor 11:2** I gave you all in marriage to a single husband, a virgin pure for presentation to Christ.
10. **Eph 1:4** He chose us in Christ before the world was made to be holy and faultless before him in love.





The OT text most quoted is Jer 31:3: I have loved you with an everlasting love.

Some of the above are actually multiple verses on a theme. So, if you ask about the single verses most quoted, the order would be:

Lk 4:18;

1 Cor 3:16;

Rom 5:5;

Rev 21:3;

Jn 3:16.

Sometimes the content of a Scripture verse is quoted but without giving the reference. Jn 3:16, for example, is one used several times in this way in his talks and also in his prayers. The first line of the SVD Prologue, by the way, does the same.

Not surprisingly, the ten texts reflect those aspects of the Christian mystery that were central to Arnold's spirituality.

