
RESURRECTION CHURCH · WHITE PAPER

You Already Did the Reading.

*Building a verified quote repository so the research you have already
done is still reachable on a Thursday morning.*

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It's Thursday. I'm somewhere in the middle of a message on anxiety and I know I've read the perfect thing for this. I can almost see it. Top of a page, left side, blue pen, maybe two years ago.

So I start pulling books off the shelf. Flipping. Scanning my own underlines like they belong to somebody else. Twenty minutes gone. Then thirty.

I never find it. I end up googling "quotes about anxiety" like a guy who has never read a book in his life.

I ran data centers before I did this. I've built systems for other people's information for twenty years. And my own study is a bunch of bookcases full of books with underlined quotes in them, between home and the offices.

SECTION ONE

The Problem

Most of what I've read is gone. Not fuzzy. Gone.

The hours are already spent. The reading happened. The underlining happened. What didn't happen is any road from that page back to a sermon three years later, so the material sits on a shelf in a building I'm not in, doing nothing.

Run the numbers on yourself. A couple dozen books a year. Say each one gives you a handful of things worth keeping. That's a few hundred a year, and twenty years in it's thousands of usable pieces of research somewhere in your history.

Thursday morning you need something on anxiety. How many of those thousands can you actually put your hands on?

For me it's the same dozen I always use. Not because they're the best twelve I've ever read. Because they're the twelve I can still find.

The gap between what a pastor has read and what he can retrieve is the largest piece of unrealized work in most of our study lives.

It's not a reading problem. Reading more doesn't fix it. It's a retrieval problem, and it compounds in the wrong direction every year you don't address it.

SECTION TWO

The Second Problem, Stacked on the First

The quotes you retain are the ones that hit hardest. Those are the ones most likely to get preached, and least likely to get checked, because by the time you use them you've carried them so long they feel settled.

So the accuracy problem lives inside the small surviving fraction. Lower volume than the retrieval problem. Higher cost per instance.

I tested this on one morning of reading. Twelve minutes of talking into my phone about a single book. What came out of it:

- A theologian's name transcribed wrong, which would have gone into a sermon wrong.
- A homophone that reversed the meaning of a sentence.
- A quote credited to a church father with no established primary source in anything he actually wrote.
- A widely preached passage that circulates in two different versions, which I didn't know.

Four problems, twelve minutes, one book. Not from careless reading. Memory is lossy and transcription is worse.

THE SEQUENCING

Build the retrieval system first. Build the verification into it while you're already there, because it costs almost nothing at the point of capture and a lot to add later.

SECTION THREE

How to Build It

Two accounts, an afternoon, no technical skill required.

What the pieces are

Notion is where the quotes live. A filing cabinet crossed with a spreadsheet, hosted online. The free tier is sufficient.

Claude is the AI. It does the labor. Chasing down who actually said it, formatting the entry, filing it, retrieving it in 2031.

A **connector** is permission for Claude to read and write in your Notion. That's the piece that makes this automatic rather than one more system you have to maintain by hand.

1

Get Notion

Free account at notion.com. Don't build anything and don't organize anything. Claude builds the structure in step 4. Just get the account.

2

Check your Claude plan

Connectors are at claude.ai/settings/connectors. Which plans include them has moved around over the past year and the third-party guides contradict each other. Check your own account rather than trusting any writeup, including this one. No connector directory means no connector.

3

Connect them

Settings, Connectors, Browse, Notion, Connect. Notion asks you to sign in and choose what Claude can access.

READ THIS BEFORE YOU CLICK CONNECT

This step matters more for a church than for most organizations. Claude inherits your access. Whatever you can open, it can open. If your church Notion holds counseling notes, personnel files, giving records, or elder minutes, don't grant workspace-wide access. Create one page for the repository and share only that page.

4

Have Claude build the database

New chat. Paste this:

Build me a Notion database called "Quote Repository." Fields: Quote (title), Attribution, Source, Verification (dropdown: Primary verified, Reliable secondary, Pending page check, Disputed attribution, Holding pen), Type (Quote, Illustration, Framework), Topics (multi-select), Scripture, Capture Source, Used In, Added (date), Notes.

It builds it and returns a link. That's the repository.

5

Run one quote end to end

Don't import twenty years on day one. Take one quote you're working with this week:

Add this to my Quote Repository. Research who actually said it. Tag it by topic. Be honest about whether the wording is verified. Never invent a page number or a source. If you can't confirm it, say so and mark it pending.

Read what comes back. Adjust the instructions until the entries look the way you want them. That loop teaches more than this document does.

6

Remove the friction from capture

A capture system that requires effort will not survive contact with a normal week.

Voice is the fix. When something lands while you're reading, say it out loud into your phone. Thirty seconds, no typing, no losing your place. Hand the transcript over later and everything gets filed in one pass.

Use a transcription tool that timestamps. It lets you jump back to the exact moment you were talking about a given quote when you go to verify it.

7

Set the gate

Five statuses. Every entry gets one.

STATUS

MEANING

Primary verified	Checked against the original. Cleared to preach.
Reliable secondary	Confirmed through a source you trust, not the original. Usable. Cite what you have.
Pending page check	Captured, not confirmed. Not cleared.
Disputed attribution	Wording may be right, attribution contested. Usable only if you name the dispute out loud.
Holding pen	A paraphrase. Never present it in quotation marks.

THE ONE RULE

Nothing gets preached unless it reads Primary verified or Reliable secondary.

Disputed entries don't have to be discarded. "A line often attributed to Tertullian" costs four words and keeps both the illustration and your credibility.

8

Set the rhythm

CADENCE

WORK

While reading

Capture by voice. Don't organize.

Weekly — 15 min

Hand over the week's captures. Let Claude file them. Correct what it got wrong.

Monthly — 30 min

Open the actual books and work the pending pile. Confirm wording, add page numbers, promote to verified.

Sermon prep

Ask for what you need, filtered by topic and verification status.

The monthly pass is manual and there's no way around it. It's also what makes the repository worth trusting.

"What do I have on suffering that's verified and that I haven't preached in two years?"

That question is the payoff. Ask it of your current setup and there's no way to answer it.

9

Guardrails

State plainly and repeatedly that the AI can't fill gaps it can't verify. No invented page numbers, sources, or statistics. If it doesn't know, it says so.

Treat a transcript as a pointer, not a source. You reading a quote aloud and a machine typing it up is an approximation. Verbatim wording gets entered from the printed page during verification.

Log what you preach. Prevents running the same illustration eighteen months later thinking it's new.

Start where you are. Don't back-fill two decades. Start with this week and let it accumulate.

The reading is already done. The only question is whether any of it is still reachable on a Thursday morning.