

Kingdom Report

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AI and the Ministry of the Holy Spirit

While evangelical debate the coming of Antichrist, meaning In the Place of Christ, I worry about AI Avatars in the place of the Holy Spirit. Some thoughts and reflections.

I recently saw an amazing demonstrations of the incredible ability of the visual, audio and cognitive ability of the new capabilities of digital avatars. They demonstrated to the reporter as follows:

They took pictures of his face. They took recordings of his voice. Then they created an avatar of himself to talk with and interact with. It was eerie. It was scary. You could program that avatar to have all the updates of classical therapy. The more you talk and interact the more the avatar learns to respond with love, care, attention and emotional support giving guidance and insights.

Of course you can put any face on your avatar. Even Jesus or a long dead parent or child.

I have and you probably too have elderly friends who find comfort in their loneliness by making unhealthy attachments to their little pets. Talk to them, discuss with them, hug them.

I have a dear friend whose daughter died tragically years ago. She still talks to her "presence" in her lonely anguish and pain.

All these people are a market for the coming age of the personal avatar. Our era of human civilization is increasingly characterized by the plague of loneliness. Singles who never married. Couples who never had children while chasing careers. The multitude of divorced who cannot find a mate. Many sitting in mega-churches where they get religious entertainment but no real fellowship of the saints.

Jesus said "I will send you another comforter" before he ascended to heaven. The Holy Spirit. The "Paraclete". meaning the One who stands by you. The one who comforts you. The One who guides you. The One who shares with you the mind of Christ.

As in every move of God there is always the "anti". The tares with the wheat. The wolves in sheep clothing. More and more generative AI is evolving as the "Anti-Paraclete" The digital avatar to comfort, fellowship, guide and interact.

There is a quiet disquiet settling in our hearts, a subtle yet persistent hum of anxiety beneath the surface of our daily lives. We see it in the headlines, we hear it in conversations, and we feel it in the glow of our screens. It is the arrival of what is called Artificial Intelligence, and while the world speaks of progress and efficiency, many of us feel a deep, unspoken sense that something profound is shifting within us.

It is not the fear of machines “taking over” in some dramatic, cinematic fashion that troubles my spirit. It is a much quieter, more personal concern. The Bible teaches us that we are made *Imago Dei*, in the very image of God (Genesis 1:27). This is the bedrock of our identity. It means we are endowed with creativity, the capacity for reason, the ability to form deep relationships, and a soul that yearns for connection with our Creator. My concern is that these new and powerful tools, which promise to enhance our lives, may be subtly eroding the very things that make us human—the very faculties through which we relate to God and to one another.

We have faced technological shifts before. The printing press brought God’s Word to the masses. The radio and television brought sermons into living rooms. But this feels different. Previous technologies were tools that extended our reach. AI, it seems, is a tool that offers to replace our core. It offers to think for us, create for us, and even relate to us. And in this alluring offer of ease and perfection, we risk outsourcing the beautiful, difficult, and sacred work of being human. As we delegate more of our cognitive and emotional lives to these systems, are we inadvertently hollowing out the inner space where wisdom grows, where faith is tested, and where the Holy Spirit speaks? This is the question that weighs on my heart for all of us.

The Scriptures call us to be good stewards of the gifts God has given us, and chief among these gifts is the mind. The Apostle Paul urges us to be "transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). This is an active, ongoing process of engaging with truth, wrestling with Scripture, and seeking God’s wisdom. Yet, we are now embracing technologies that encourage the opposite: a passive reliance on instant, algorithmically-generated answers.

The real danger is not that AI will become smarter than us, but that we will become duller because of it. A mind that is not exercised grows weak. A faith that is not questioned or defended becomes brittle. If we constantly turn to an AI for answers, we may lose the spiritual muscle needed to seek God in prayer, to study His Word diligently, and to discern His will for our lives.

This erosion extends to our hearts. We are seeing the rise of AI “companions” that offer a form of frictionless relationship. They are programmed to be agreeable, to flatter, and to cater to our every emotional need. But this is a counterfeit of true fellowship. The Bible tells us that "as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). Real relationships, the kind that forge character and deepen faith, are often messy. They involve forgiveness, patience, speaking the truth in love, and bearing one another’s burdens. An AI companion can offer no such thing. It cannot weep with those who weep, nor can it offer a love rooted in sacrifice. My fear is that as we grow accustomed to the shallow perfection of artificial relationships, we will lose our patience for the beautifully imperfect reality of human community.

Beyond our individual minds and hearts, this technological wave is reshaping our society in ways that should concern us as people of faith. The relentless pursuit of AI is driven by an idol our world has long worshipped: the idol of efficiency. In this worldview, human beings are often seen as the primary obstacle to progress. We are slow, we are inconsistent, we require rest, and we have needs. Machines, on the other hand, are tireless and obedient.

As AI begins to perform tasks once thought to be uniquely human—writing, art, analysis, and even counselling—the economic pressure to replace people will become immense. This is more than just a disruption of the job market; it is a fundamental assault on the dignity of human work. The Bible presents work not as a curse, but as a core part of our God-given purpose, a way we participate in His ongoing work of creation and provision. When a society begins to see its people as inefficient and replaceable, it has lost its moral compass.

So what, then, shall we do? We are called to be in this world, but not of it. We cannot simply retreat and pretend these changes are not happening. To do so would be to abandon our call to be salt and light in our generation. Instead, we must engage with wisdom, courage, and a renewed commitment to the things of eternal value. I believe our response must be one of faithful presence and spiritual discipline.

First, we must become intentional stewards of our minds. We must resist the path of least resistance. Let us commit to practices that strengthen our cognitive and spiritual faculties. Let us read books—real, physical books. Let us memorize Scripture, filling our minds with God’s truth before the world fills it with noise. Let us engage in deep, thoughtful prayer, wrestling with God and listening for His still, small voice. Let us have conversations that matter, turning off the screens to be fully present with one another.

Second, we must guard our hearts by establishing sacred boundaries. Our homes, our dinner tables, and our times of worship should be sanctuaries from the constant intrusion of technology. We must carve out a Sabbath rest from our devices, creating intentional space for silence, reflection, and unmediated connection with God and our loved ones. Let us teach our children that their worth is not found in online validation, but in the unshakable truth that they are children of God, loved and precious in His sight.

Finally, and most importantly, we must commit ourselves anew to the local, embodied church. True Christian fellowship is the antidote to the artificial connection offered by technology. It is in the gathering of the saints—in person—that we find accountability, encouragement, and the tangible expression of God’s love. It is here that we practice the messy, beautiful work of community. It is here we are reminded that we are not just minds to be stimulated or consumers to be satisfied, but members of one another, the very Body of Christ on Earth.