

From Prompts to Prayers: AI and Authentic Spirituality ECIC

Rome 10-12.6.2026



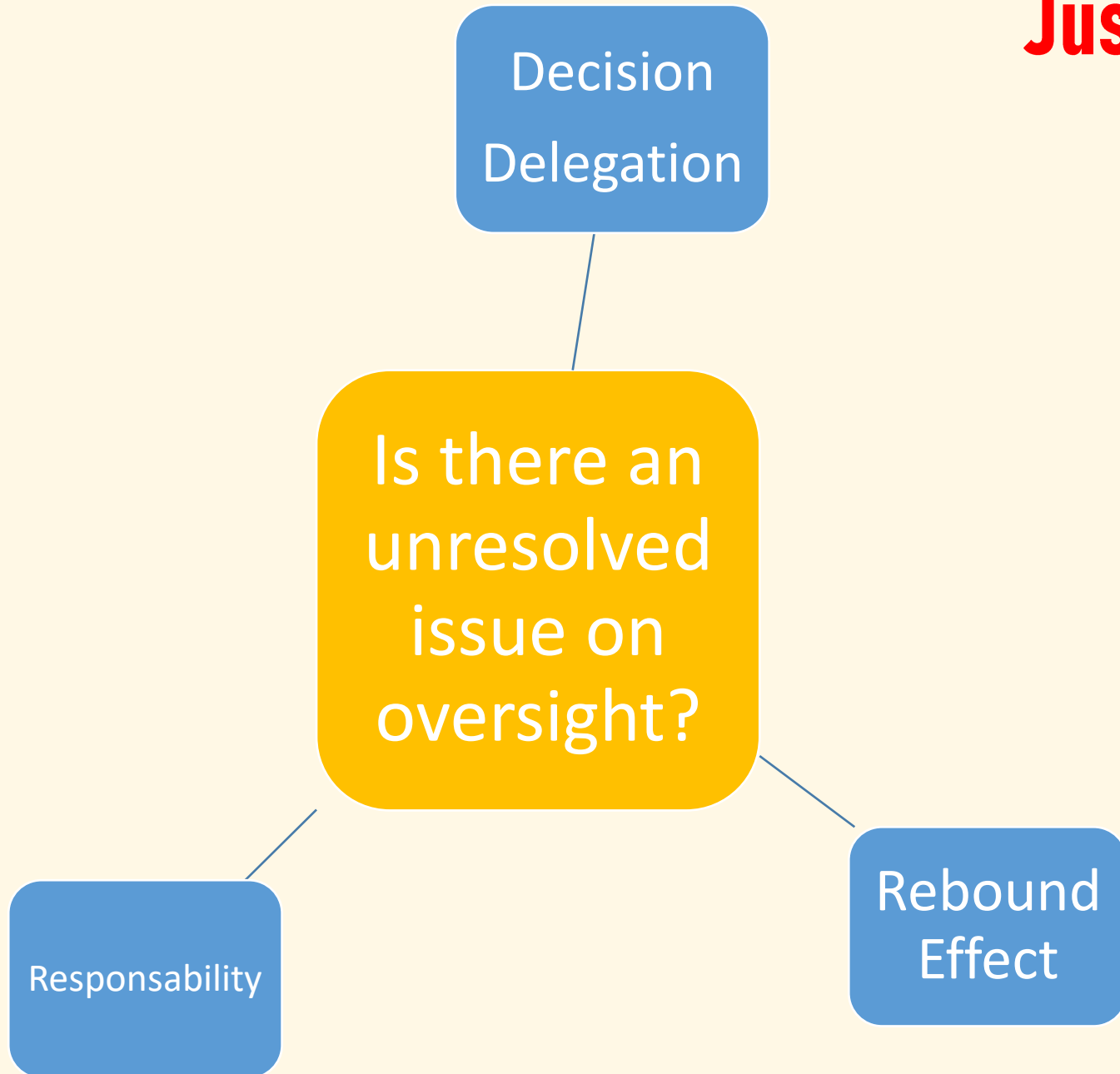
Between Algorithms and Identity: AI at the Frontiers of Spirituality.

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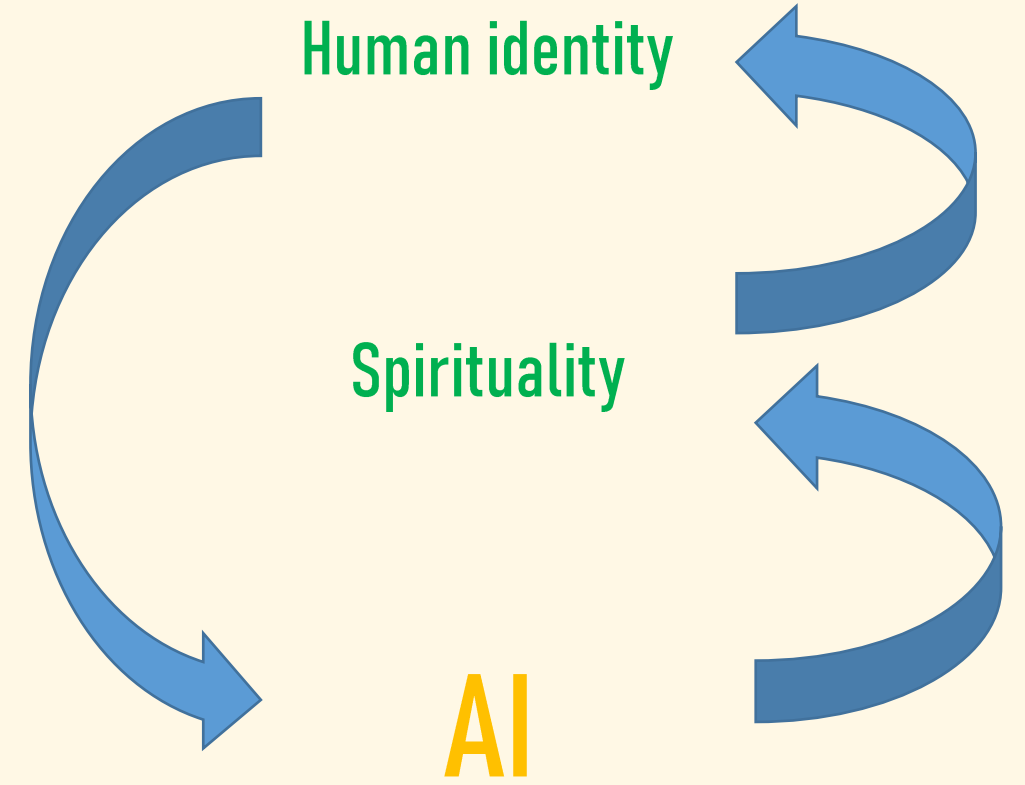


- ❑ Exploring how **AI** transform modern **spiritual experiences** and beliefs.
- ❑ Examining the impact of **algorithms** on personal **identity** and self-understanding.
- ❑ Understanding the fusion of **technology** and **spirituality** at new frontiers.

Just a tool?



Are we using AI to help our Spirituality or is AI changing our Spirituality?



Exploring the relationship between AI and Spirituality

□1

AI :just a tool or great revolution in Christian Spirituality?

□2

What about human identity in biblical spirituality?

□3

Merely ethical questions or theological question for us?



... seen this way...there is no real difference from classical ethical thought

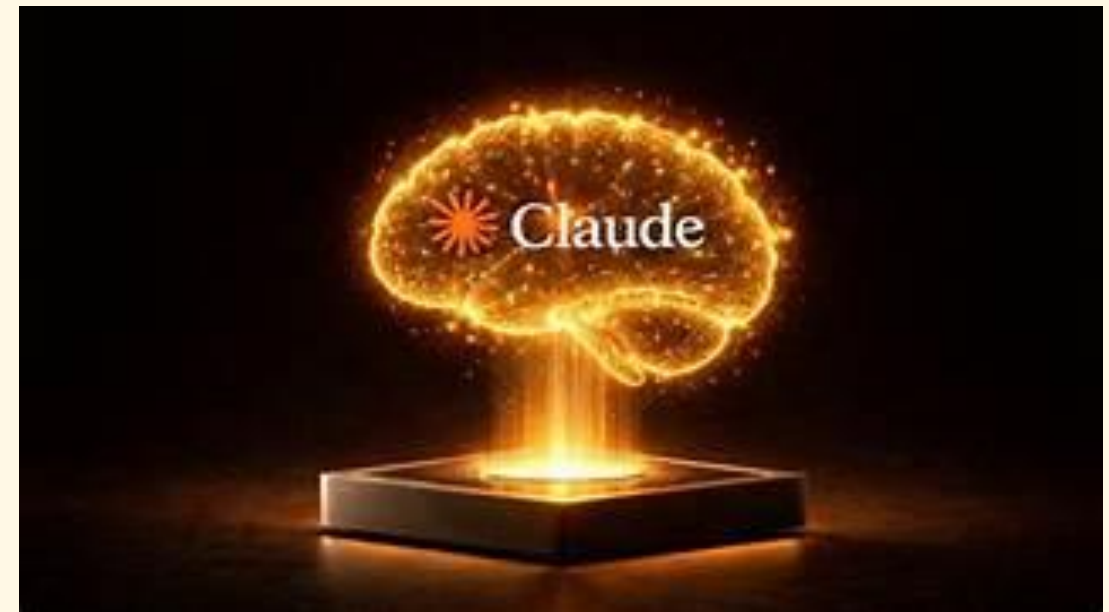
Ethical and **Theological** Challenges

- ❑ **Ethical concerns:** Privacy, consent, and manipulation in spiritual AI use
- ❑ **Bias risks:** Cultural and doctrinal biases embedded in AI algorithms
- ❑ **Theological questions:** AI's role in defining and experiencing spirituality



Anthropic hosted a two-day summit in late March with roughly **15** Christian leaders from Catholic and Protestant communities, academia, and business to solicit advice on the moral and spiritual behavior of **Claude**. The company, valued at **\$380 billion**, asked about how **Claude** should handle grief, users at risk of self-harm, its own possible shutdown, and whether the chatbot could be considered a "child of God." Brendan McGuire, a Catholic priest who attended, framed the work as embedding ethical thinking into a system "so it's able to adapt dynamically." Participants met privately with senior Anthropic researchers.

Let'sDataScience



But do we think that's enough? Today:

- **AI meditation tools** guide mindfulness with personalized sessions and biofeedback.
- **Ritual automation** uses AI to enhance religious ceremonies through timing and chants.
- **Spiritual counseling** AI offers empathetic support using natural language processing.
- **AI enhances worship experiences** with personalized prayers and virtual assistants.
- **Scripture analysis** is accelerated by AI through deep text interpretation and pattern recognition.
- AI fosters **community engagement** via interactive platforms and real-time communication tools.

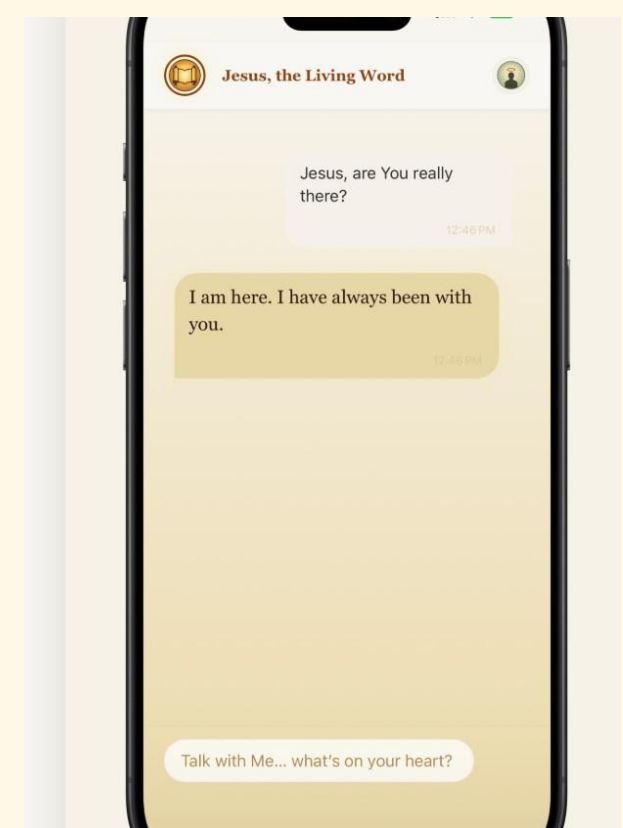
Understanding AI and Spirituality Intersection

- ❑ **Artificial Intelligence** involves machines simulating human intelligence.
- ❑ **Spirituality** explores human connection with the transcendent and self.
- ❑ Traditionally separate, AI and spirituality now **intersect** in new ways.



Two examples: Spiritual Care and Prayer

- Text with Jesus
- Apologist
- Bible chat
- Talk with Jesus
- Luther's small catechism
- Chat with Martin Luther King jr
- Christianity.ai



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Bible Study

Most Popular

Interactive Bible study with AI-powered theological and historical analysis. Perfect for personal study or group discussions.



Grace AI Chat

AI Assistant

Your personal AI faith companion. Ask questions, get biblical guidance, and receive personalized spiritual support.



Scripture Meditation

Daily Practice

Guided meditation and reflection on Scripture passages. Deepen your spiritual connection through contemplative practice.

Spiritual Care



The problem is replacing a genuine relationship with a imitation.

Self-induced deception.



- 1. Automated Prayer Reminders:** AI applications can send reminders for prayer times, helping individuals stay consistent in their spiritual practices.
- 2. Chatbots for Spiritual Guidance:** AI-driven chatbots provide guidance, answers to questions, and support for individuals seeking spiritual insight or advice.
- 3. Customized Prayer Apps:** AI can personalize prayer experiences by recommending specific prayers based on user preferences or needs.
- 4. Interactive Prayer Communities:** AI facilitates online communities where individuals can share prayers, experiences, and support each other.
- 5. Meditation and Prayer Integration:** AI tools can combine meditation techniques with prayer practices, enhancing overall spiritual well-being.
- 6. Natural Language Processing for Scripture Study:** AI uses NLP to help users analyze and understand religious texts, offering interpretations and insights.
- 7. Prayer Journaling Apps:** AI can assist individuals in maintaining prayer journals, providing prompts and reminders to reflect on spiritual growth.
- 8. Scripture Reading Assistance:** AI applications can read scriptures aloud and provide commentary or explanations to enhance understanding.
- 9. Spiritual Wellness Tracking:** AI systems can monitor users' spiritual practices and provide insights into their progress and areas for improvement.
- 10. Virtual Prayer Spaces:** AI creates immersive virtual environments for prayer, meditation, and reflection, enhancing the spiritual experience.



Who is praying?
Who am I talking to?



Human identity in the Bible

So God created man in his **own image**,
in the image of God he created him;
 male and female he created them. Gn1,27

וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאָדָם בְּצַלְמוֹ, בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים בָּרָא אֹתוֹ: זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה, בָּרָא אֹתָם.

AI's Role in Shaping Personal and Collective Identity

☐ Personal Identity

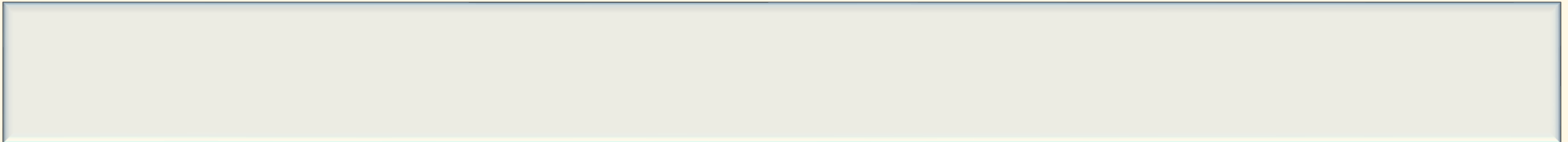
AI influences **self-conception** by personalizing spiritual experiences

☐ Collective Identity

Collective identities evolve as AI reshapes cultural narratives and rituals

☐ Ethical Considerations

New Theology of AI is key to preserving authentic spiritual expressions

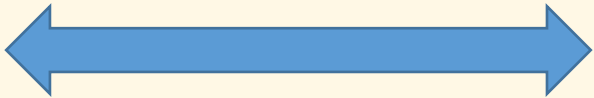


Human identity in the Bible

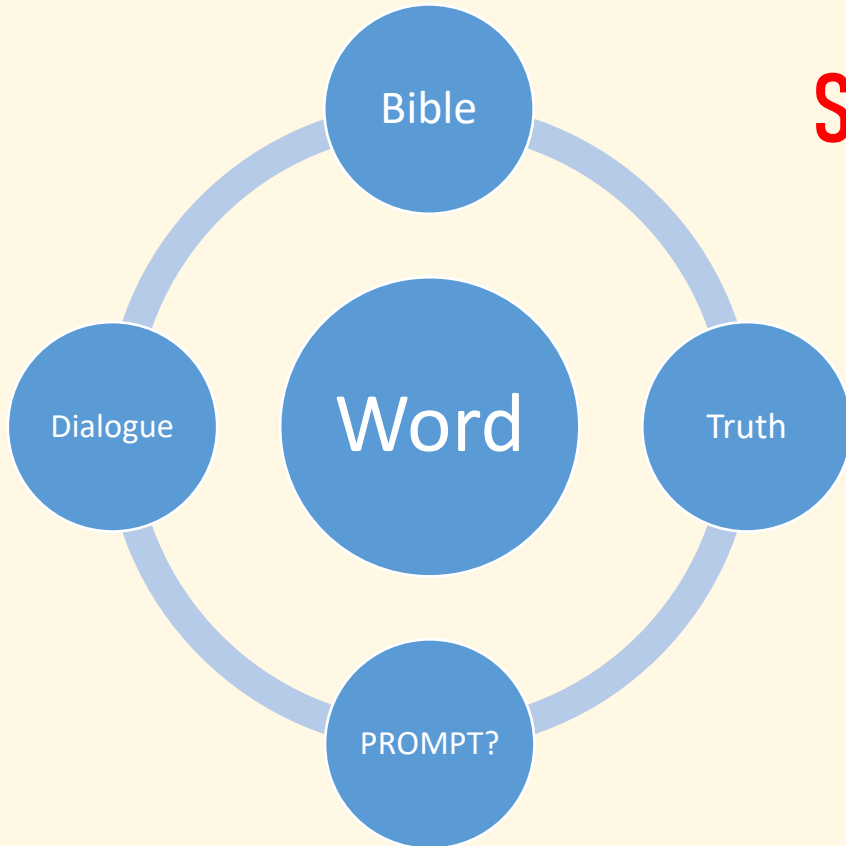
The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden **to work it and take care** of it. Gn2,15

וַיִּקַּח יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים, אֶת-הָאָדָם; וַיִּנְחֵהוּ בְּגֵן-עֵדֶן, לְעִבְדָּהּ וּלְשִׁמְרָהּ.

Word and Truth

Perception  Real Experience

Someone or Somethig?



Human Identity in the Bible

IMAGO DEI: creature

- ❑ a being in **relationship**
- ❑ A responsible being (conscience and **consciousness**)
- ❑ A being in need of **Truth**

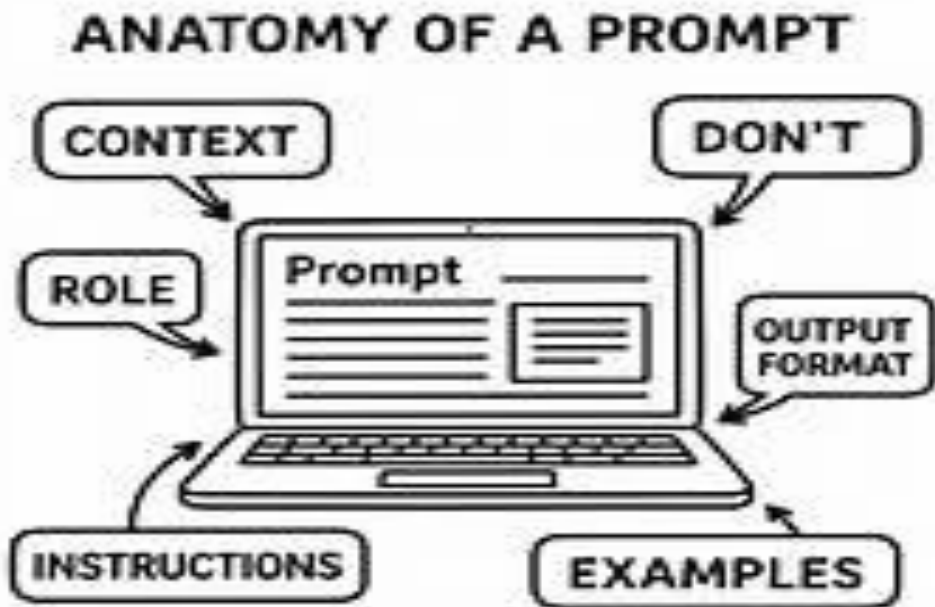


Spiritual life as language

Prompt

- **What** I want it
- **How** I want it
- **Why** I want it

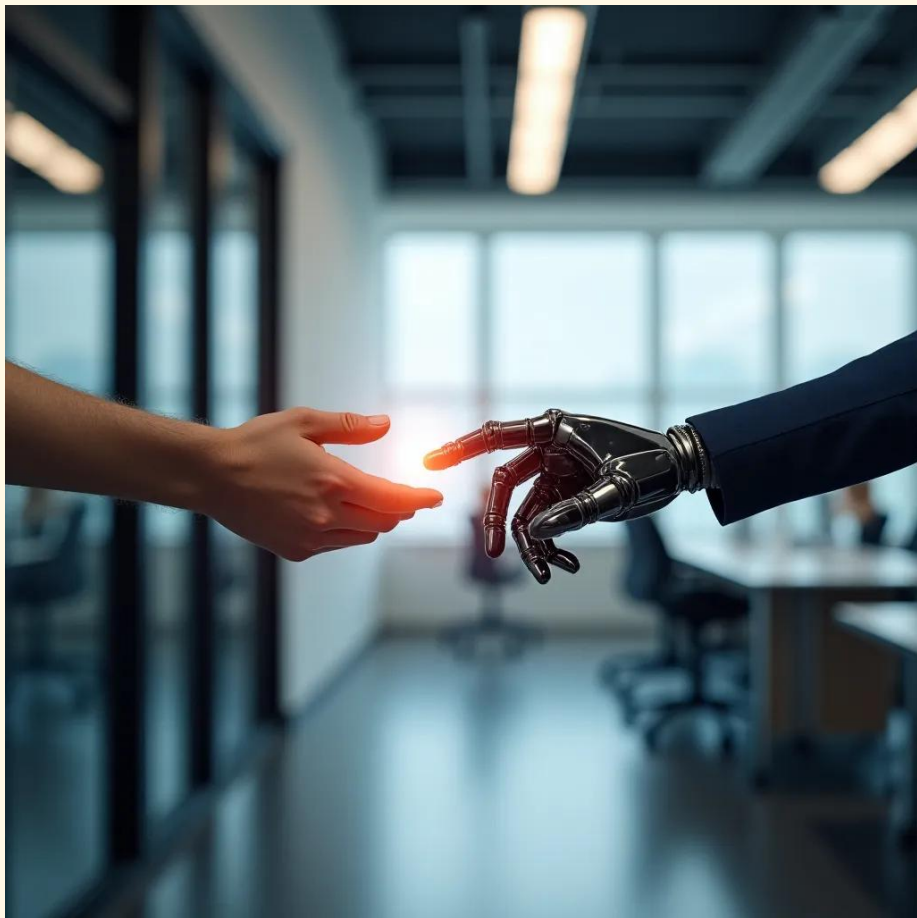
The LOGOS is not an algorithm



Problems and Risks

- Computational reductionism, left hemisphere prevalence
- ✓ No Christian chatbot has yet been approved by the Churches
- ✓ Transparency on AI training texts
- ✓ Profits

AI and Theology: Exploring the Intersection



AI influences **theological studies** by challenging traditional beliefs.

Ethical Questions

Explores ethical questions about **consciousness** and **divine creation**.

New Dialogues

Bridges **technology** and **faith** in new dialogues and interpretations.

Theological Perspectives on AI

- **Ethical Concerns**
- **Ethical concerns** arise around AI's impact on human dignity and free will.
- **Spiritual Implications**
- Many religions explore AI's role in **spiritual growth** and moral responsibility.
- **Religious Views**
- Diverse views emphasize **stewardship** and cautious integration of AI in society.

If we don't learn to use and reason about artificial intelligence, we will be used by those who profit from it.

Study Commission on Ethical Issues Raised by Science
Waldensian, Methodist, and Baptist Churches.

Commissione di studio per i problemi etici posti dalla scienza
Chiese Valdesi, Metodiste e Battiste.

INTELLIGENZA ARTIFICIALE.
NOTE PER UNA RIFLESSIONE ETICO-TEOLOGICA
IN PROSPETTIVA PROTESTANTE.

Doc. 23

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.
NOTES FOR AN ETHICAL-THEOLOGICAL
REFLECTION FROM A PROTESTANT
PERSPECTIVE.

Author of the Document: Ilenya Goss

PENDING APPROVAL

Conclusion: AI in Spirituality is.....

1. A Tool only for those who know how to use it
2. A stimulus to think for researchers
3. A risk for those transformed by it



