



Dear Praying Friends in Europe,

What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour. ⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet. Psalm 8:4-6

God made us in His image and gave us tremendous worth and dignity by placing us in control of His creation.

“Human beings possess unique qualities such as creativity, emotional intelligence, critical thinking, complex problem-solving, empathy, adaptability, and ethical decision-making that are currently beyond the capabilities of AI systems.” (Chat GPT)

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

I am not an expert on AI, just someone who reads with interest articles which appear in the media, either praising the advances and benefits of AI or warning of the potential dangers.

The media will always focus on the sensational and lean towards warnings of mass job losses or even of humanity being destroyed by killer robots. But it is not hard to see and appreciate the ways in which AI is beneficial to mankind, e.g. by automating boring and repetitive tasks, aiding medical diagnosis, helping to detect fraud, detecting potential threats and predicting natural disasters – and AI will work non-stop, 24/7. I have even used a quote from AI for this article!

But clearly, whilst recognising these benefits, there is room for anxiety and fear to set in; Will a robot take my job? Will there be a loss of skills in people? Will humans become lazy? How can I talk to a machine about my problems? How can we guard against becoming too dependent on AI? How much disinformation could be spread using AI? What if this advanced technology falls into the wrong hands and is used in warfare?

It can be disconcerting to read about experts in this field having real concerns for the future, for example Geoffrey Hinton, the “godfather of AI” who regrets his life’s work because of his fears that it could become a threat to humanity.

Developments in this area have happened so rapidly that it is hard to keep up with them. Our governments are also struggling to decide how to regulate such fast-moving development and deployment of technology. The EU is working on the EU AI Act and there is due to be an international summit in the UK on “the safe development and use of Frontier AI.”

So, how can we pray into such a technologically challenging subject? The Bible does not, of course, say anything specifically about technology, but it does give us some principles to help us.

Do not be afraid!

This phrase appears 365 times in the Bible! God tells us not to be anxious or worry about tomorrow. As Christians, we know how the story ends; this world will remain until the last day when Jesus returns. Whatever else AI may do, it will not change that fact.

A balanced perspective

The Bible teaches us to avoid two errors: hating and rejecting technology just because it is new and unfamiliar, and idolatry, where people worship new technology and become dependent on it.

The creation mandate

In Genesis 1:28 God commands humans to subdue the earth and rule over it under His kingly reign. God wants us to use our creative skills to utilise the resources in the world He has given us. This has happened over the years as new technologies have been invented and exploited to help humanity.

The effect of the fall

Because of the fall, the way we use technology will be contaminated by sin. Tools created with good intentions can be used in harmful ways. We can become addicted to technology and too dependent on it, causing withdrawal from meaningful human relationships.

Our task: let’s remain aware of current dangers and guard against possible misuses of technology, while giving thanks for beneficial applications and how AI can be used for the good of mankind.

Let’s pray:

- Give thanks for all the benefits of AI which affect many areas of our lives in a positive way.
- Pray for those in positions of authority to have good, wise and godly counsel as they draw up legislation to regulate AI.
- Pray that any attempt to use AI for evil purposes would be thwarted.

Ukraine’s First Lady, Olena Zelenska, has urged world leaders to help recover the more than 19,000 children she said have been taken forcibly to Russia, indoctrinated and deprived of their national identity. This week, a group of 48 children from occupied areas of Ukraine have been seen arriving in Belarus. So far, only about 300 children have returned to Ukraine. Pray for this abduction to stop and for the well-being of the children who have been removed.



Additional Prayer Points:-

1. Pray for a full ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh, for humanitarian assistance for the Karabakh Armenians, and for their human rights and security to be upheld.
2. Pray for the discussions on the report commissioned by France and Germany proposing reforms to streamline the workings of the EU; that ways can be found to avoid a stalemate over future decisions.

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