

Perspective: A Spiritual Parallel to the Impact of Artificial Intelligence

A significant (potential) negative impact that Artificial Intelligence (AI) has and will have on human development and progress is the loss of “intuition” that is present (or available) in humans who have “profound knowledge and experience.” This “intuition” is unconsciously (or perhaps subconsciously) used to react to and solve unpredictable and sudden (or significant) life changes and challenges.

Apparently, the best AI can do is to rapidly prescribe predetermined algorithms which then must be analyzed, prioritized and implemented by other computer algorithms to activate servo mechanisms which implement actions to prevent (for example) an airplane from crashing due to engine failure. Contrast this with an experienced pilot with developed intuition from multiple thousand of past interactions who can immediately implement subtle actions that are dynamically adjusted (in real time) based on his or her observations of the moment.

On the other hand, AI can be very useful in the initial training of those with little experience to rapidly learn basic, rule-based skills. This is analogous to the benefit of “the covenantal law” of the Old Testament. This initial training benefit is mentioned in the observation made by Paul in Galatians 3:24: the law guided and protected children until they were mature enough to respond to God in faith. As “the laws” (the algorithms) are repeatedly followed in the maturation process, intuition is activated, developed and sharpened so that we no longer need to ask the question “what would Jesus do?” as we are being conformed to the likeness of Christ by the transformation resulting from the renewing of our minds. Our objectives adjust from following the “letter of the law” to walking by faith as we are guided by “the spirit of the law.”

As “expertise” or fundamental basic understanding develops, then blindly following the rudiments (letter of the law rather than the spirit of the law) becomes a hindrance to profound discovery of truth. The alternative is to just remain as “followers of a set of rules” and/or accept misinterpretations of God’s promises in an unexamined manner. (An example was the Jews of Jesus’ day who blindly followed the strict rules of the Pharisees and insisted that the coming Kingdom of God was a physical kingdom that would restore the glories of the reign of David and Solomon.) This approach to learning results in shallowness rather than depth of understanding. It is analogous to consistently going around the mountain in circles rather than gaining elevation each time around the mountain as we grow to be more like Christ. If we are not going up “Jacob’s Ladder” and never growing, then we find ourselves in a rut that causes us to wind up in the dark as the rut becomes deeper and deeper.