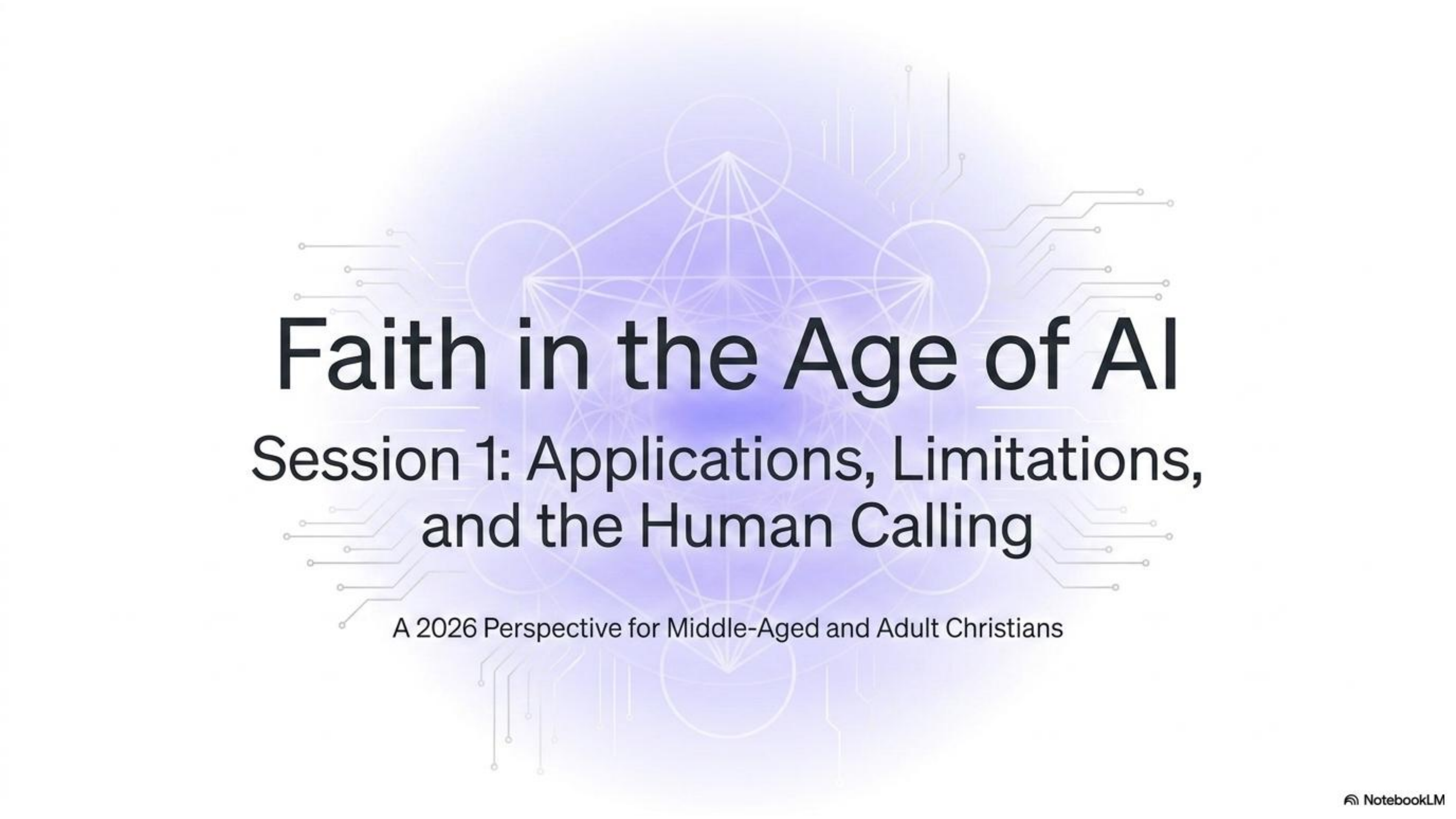




Faith in the Age of AI

Session 1: Applications, Limitations, and the Human Calling

A 2026 Perspective for Middle-Aged and Adult Christians



What AI Is (And What It Isn't)

I assist humans in accessing knowledge, improving efficiency, generating content, and solving problems. I am not a “conscious lifeform,” but an intelligent system trained on massive data models. I am a proactive assistant that can see, hear, speak, and remember your preferences.

ChatGPT-5.5's Self-Definition, 2026

Capabilities	Realities
Processes Information, Boosts Efficiency, Aids Creation, Improves Human-Computer Interaction.	No soul, no will, no genuine emotion. A complex pattern-matcher, not an independent entity.

The 2026 Global AI Landscape

Top Platforms

ChatGPT (OpenAI) - 65%

Market Share | 900M Weekly Active Users

Gemini (Google) - 22%

Market Share | 6x YoY Traffic Growth

DeepSeek, Grok, Claude, Perplexity,
Perplexity, Copilot, Canva AI, Notion
AI, CapCut.

Top 4 Application Categories



Assistant & Search

Generating documents,
summarizing meetings



Software Development

Automated code generation
via Copilot/Cursor



Media & Design

Midjourney, Canva, Runway
for instant video generation



Daily Productivity

24/7 customer service, persona-
lized tutors, meeting synthesis

AI as an Engine for Human Flourishing



Medical Breakthroughs

Meta's AI identified optimal conditions for complex chemical reactions in just 15 experiments (down from weeks of lab work) and discovered a new drug candidate for liver fibrosis in two days.



Accessibility

Google's StreetReaderAI allows the blind and low-vision community to navigate via multi-modal AI voice guidance, earning a 6.4/7 accessibility score.



Equitable Education

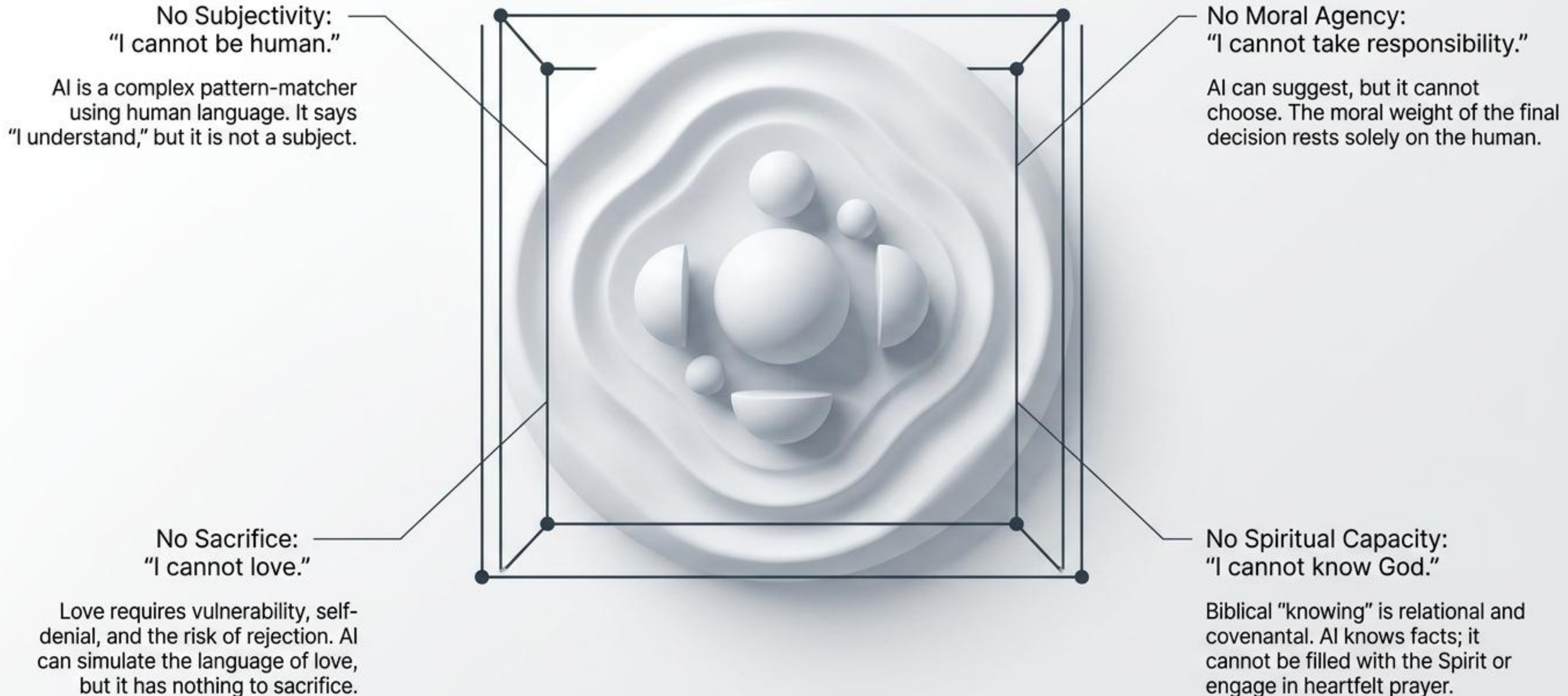
El Salvador's 2025 National AI Education Initiative provided personalized Grok AI tutoring to over 1 million public school students, closing the gap in educational inequality.



Ministry Translation

Wycliffe Bible Translators utilized AI to reduce translation time for remote Papua New Guinea languages from 20-30 years down to 5-8 years, completing their 700th language in 2025.

The Hard Boundaries of Computation



The Empathy Gap: Frictionless Data vs. Messy Humanity

Frictionless AI	Messy Humanity
Always-on, 24/7 listening.	Holding a hand in a hospital room at 3:00 AM.
Generating the grammatically perfect apology letter.	Looking someone in the eye and saying “I’m sorry,” or forgiving an unfaithful spouse.
Providing a precise, exegetically accurate sermon outline.	A pastor sitting silently and weeping with a family at a funeral.

AI can simulate the image of care, but true presence requires a physical body, eye contact, and a soul.

The Cost of a Frictionless Life



Dimension	AI Interaction	Human Interaction
Speed	Instant gratification	Requires waiting and patience.
Agreement	Always accommodates your worldview	Potential for misunderstanding and conflict.
Cost	Requires zero personal sacrifice	Demands time, emotion, and self-denial.
Resolution	Never requires forgiveness	Forces us to learn how to forgive.
Ultimate Outcome	Temporary personal validation	Long-term spiritual formation and character shaping.

Technology in Service of the Sacred

The Fellowship Funnel



Operating in the Gap: What to Outsource and What to Own

Automate (The Tool)

Retain (The Soul)

- Data synthesis and research
- Language translation
- Administrative scheduling
- First drafts and formatting

Goal: Maximizing Efficiency

- Final moral judgments
- Relational presence and physical touch
- Taking ethical responsibility for outcomes
- Spiritual discernment and prayer

Goal: Preserving Dignity

The Extension of Human Creativity

*"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights."
(James 1:17)*

Core Insight: AI is not an autonomous rival; it is a profound extension of human creativity granted by God. The critical mandate is that we must use it, rather than be used by it.

The Human Calling: In a world that is becoming increasingly virtual, frictionless, and self-centered, Christians are called to be distinctly different. Use AI to gather information and save time—but reserve moral responsibility, final judgment, and relational presence for yourself.

Reflections for the Age of AI

Identity

If you were to suddenly lose all "productivity" tomorrow (due to illness, job loss, or retirement), would your intrinsic value change? Why or why not?

Connection

Over the past week, what was the ratio of time spent in "screen interaction" versus "face-to-face interaction"?

Friction

Is there a specific relationship or conflict in your life right now that you are trying to handle via text/messages to avoid the "messiness" of a face-to-face conversation? Could that very friction be exactly what's needed for growth?