

The Same Gold

Scripture and AI for the Christian Filmmaker

Use every tool for the Kingdom of God.

When Israel walked out of Egypt, they carried gold with them (Exodus 12:35-36). At the foot of Sinai, Aaron fashioned gold into a calf (32:1-4). Later, the people offered gold willingly for the tabernacle. God filled Bezalel with His Spirit for skilled work and appointed others to work alongside him (31:1-6; 35:20-35).

Same material. Different hands. Different hearts.

The calf was destroyed (32:20). The contrast concerns gold used for different purposes. Here is the searching detail: Aaron announced a feast to the Lord (32:5). Invoking God's name did not make the work faithful.

AI can be examined through this analogy. Can this tool and this particular use be brought under the lordship of Jesus Christ for God's glory and our neighbor's good? Our intentions matter. So do the tool's sources, the people affected, our methods, and the truthfulness of the finished work.

Five convictions

The image-bearer remains responsible. Human beings bear God's image (Genesis 1:27). The vision, discernment, decisions and consequences remain our responsibility. AI output carries no spiritual authority. This conviction concerns stewardship; questions of copyright require their own analysis.

Making is cultivation. God placed the human being in the garden to work and keep it (Genesis 2:15). We receive materials, abilities and opportunities, then cultivate them. Ask what your work develops in the world and what its making develops in you.

We become what we serve. Psalm 115:8 warns that idol-makers become like what they trust. Applied to our habits, the question is whether speed and convenience are training us to avoid patience, attention and difficult creative work. Keep the tool in its proper place.

Every face carries a person's dignity. James 3:9 connects our treatment of people with their likeness to God. A face, a voice and a lived experience belong to someone. Seek appropriate consent and honor context, credit and fair treatment. People are more valuable than a production.

Offer what costs you something. David refused a costless offering (2 Samuel 24:24). Applied to our craft, the cost may be patient revision, fair payment, restraint or the courage to start again. A lower budget does not make a work less worthy. Bring your attention and obedience to it.

Questions shaped by Scripture

Philippians 4:8 directs our attention toward what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely and commendable, toward excellence and what deserves praise. First Thessalonians 5:19-22 calls for testing in the context of prophecy. The following questions apply these and other biblical principles to creative practice.

True? Does this pass fiction off as fact, conceal a synthetic performance, or misrepresent a person's contribution?

Just? Have I respected ownership, consent, agreements, privacy and the labor of others?

Pure? Does the portrayal expose evil truthfully, or exploit suffering, sexuality or fear for its own sake?

Loving? Does this serve people? What does it ask of the artists, performers and communities affected?

Excellent? Am I exercising craft and judgment, including the patience to revise or reject an output?

Worth offering? Can I put my name on this work before God with a clear conscience about both its making and its effect?

A practice for Monday morning

Pray before the first prompt. Ask God for wisdom (James 1:5). Name the purpose and the people the work will affect before pursuing speed.

Keep a making log. Record what came from you, what others supplied, what AI generated, the tool and model, your revisions, and the permissions you actually hold. Preserve the supporting files. Mark missing facts UNKNOWN. Truthfulness includes the record (Ephesians 4:25).

Keep a Sabbath from the machine. Receive rest as part of faithful work (Genesis 2:2-3).

Set a stopping point. Refuse to let a useful instrument master your attention (1 Corinthians 6:12).

God is the source. The human being is His image-bearer.

The artist is His steward. And the work must bear witness to truth.

Use every tool you can use faithfully for the Kingdom of God.

Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31, ESV)

These are contemporary applications of Scripture. The full passages deserve reading in context. The statement about using every tool is a workshop conviction, not a Bible quotation.