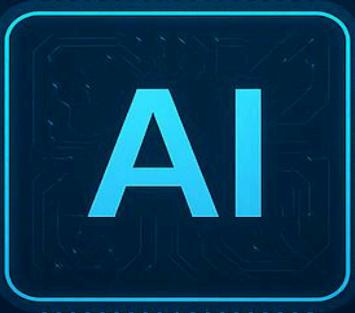


THE AI ADVANTAGE

Smarter Questions, Better
Results

A glowing blue square with rounded corners, representing a microchip, with the letters 'AI' in the center. The square is surrounded by a complex network of glowing blue circuit lines that radiate outwards across the dark blue background. Small blue dots are scattered throughout the circuitry, suggesting data points or nodes.

AI

The AI Advantage: Smarter Questions, Better Results

Outline

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Introduction: The New Way to Think

Artificial Intelligence (AI) isn't just a buzzword—it's here, it's useful, and it's changing how we work, study, and live. But most people use it poorly. They either treat it like a magic box ("give me the perfect answer now") or like a novelty ("write me a poem about pizza"). The truth is somewhere in between: AI is a thinking partner. It's not here to replace your wisdom, creativity, or values. It's here to sharpen them. This book isn't another list of 1,000 prompts to copy-paste. Those are like using someone else's grocery list—you'll end up with ingredients that don't fit your kitchen. Instead, this is about learning the mindset and methods that let you make AI truly useful. You'll learn how to start messy, refine your questions, build workflows, avoid common pitfalls, and even customize AI so it feels like your personal assistant. And here's the secret sauce: you don't have to be great at asking questions from the start. AI can help you get better at asking questions for AI. That's the skill most people miss.

Chapter 1: What AI Really Is (and Isn't)

Most people hear “AI” and picture some Hollywood version of a robot that thinks on its own, or a cold machine plotting to replace humans. That’s not what you’ve got in front of you when you open ChatGPT, Gemini, or Copilot. What you actually have is a really advanced text prediction system. It doesn’t “know” in the way you or I know—it predicts the most likely next word or phrase based on mountains of data it’s been trained on.

Think of it like this: when you’re texting a friend, and your phone’s keyboard guesses the next word—“Happy...” and it offers “birthday”? That’s predictive text. AI chats are the same idea, just massively scaled up and trained on everything from Wikipedia to books to technical manuals. So, when you ask it a question, it’s not pulling an answer from a magical box of truth—it’s stitching together a response that sounds like the most probable correct answer. Sometimes it nails it.

Sometimes it misses completely.

Where AI Shines

- **Clarity:** It can take a messy idea in your head and turn it into a clear outline. For example, if you say, “I want to make a flyer about a school fundraiser,” AI can help you organize the message: what to include, what to leave out, and how to word it.
- **Speed:** It can draft things quickly that would take you an hour to start from scratch. I’ve asked AI to generate a 500-word summary of a 10-page document, and it had a decent first draft in under a minute.
- **Perspective:** It can show you multiple angles you hadn’t thought of. If you’re a student writing about the American Revolution, it might give you political, social, and economic points you hadn’t considered. If you’re a small business owner, it might suggest marketing angles you wouldn’t have landed on alone.

Where AI Fails

- **Accuracy problems:** AI can “hallucinate.” That’s the polite way of saying it sometimes makes stuff up. You might ask for a citation, and it gives you a very official-looking source that simply doesn’t exist.
- **Nuance problems:** AI struggles with deep human judgment. It can give you a list of “10 ways to comfort a grieving friend,” but it can’t look into their eyes, hear their tone, and sense what they really need in the moment. That’s where wisdom comes in.
- **Integrity problems:** AI will confidently hand you an answer, even if it’s dead wrong. If you don’t double-check, you can walk away believing a lie dressed up like the truth.

The Real Equation: AI + You

The takeaway is simple: AI is a tool, not a replacement.

If you’ve ever used a power drill, you know it doesn’t build a house for you. It just makes your work faster, cleaner, and easier if you know how to use it. AI is the same way. It won’t think for you. It won’t carry your values, your wisdom, or your experience. But when you combine your thinking with AI’s speed and pattern-recognition, you’ve got a powerful combo.

Real-Life Example

Let me put this in perspective.

A friend of mine wanted to create a business plan for selling custom hats. He sat down with AI and typed: “Make me a business plan.”

What he got back looked polished—but it was generic, shallow, and honestly, not that useful.

So we flipped the script. Instead of asking AI to do the whole thing, we asked it to be a guide:

- “Give me a simple outline of a hat business plan.”
- “Now, under marketing, what questions should I be asking myself?”
- “Can you show me three different pricing models, and the pros and cons of each?”

The result? Instead of AI handing him a cookie-cutter plan, he used AI as a partner to think through the real decisions he needed to make. That’s the difference between treating AI like a vending machine and treating it like a power tool.

The Key Mindset

Here's the bottom line for this chapter:

AI is not a brain. It's not a prophet. It's not even a "smart friend."

It's a highly-trained assistant that's brilliant at arranging words, clarifying messy thoughts, and helping you see possibilities faster. If you treat it as the final authority, you'll trip yourself up. If you treat it as a partner—someone who drafts, suggests, and helps sharpen your thinking—you'll find yourself producing better work, faster, and with less stress.

That's where we start. The next chapters will show you not only how to ask AI the right questions, but how to let it help you get better at asking questions in the first place. That's the real skill most people are missing.

Chapter 2: The Beginner's Mindset

When most people first open up ChatGPT, Gemini, or Copilot, they freeze up. The little blinking cursor is sitting there, waiting for you to type something, and your brain goes blank. You think, "What do I even ask?"

That's normal. Why? Because we've been trained by years of Google searches to believe we only get one shot at the "right" wording. With Google, if you type it in wrong, you'll get junk results. But here's the good news: AI chats don't work that way.

AI is built for conversation, not one-shot guesses. You don't need the perfect question to start—you just need a question.

Start Messy, Then Refine

The biggest mistake beginners make is waiting until they can think of the "right way" to ask.

That's like refusing to talk to a mechanic because you don't know the right technical term for what's wrong with your car. Imagine saying, "Well, I can't describe the timing belt perfectly, so I'll just drive it until it blows up." Silly, right?

Instead, you'd say: "It's making a clicking sound near the engine, mostly when I accelerate."

And a good mechanic will guide you with follow-up questions.

AI works the same way. You don't need perfect wording—just describe what you're trying to do.

Then, let AI guide you into sharper territory.

Example: Student Paper

If they type: "Write me a paper on the Civil War."

What do you think they'll get? A generic, cookie-cutter essay with no personality. Probably something their teacher has already seen 100 times.

But if they start messy, it's fine: "I have to write a 5-page paper on the Civil War. I'm not sure where to start. Can you help me figure out what topics I could focus on?"

Now AI acts like a coach. It might say:

- Do you want to focus on causes, battles, or consequences?
- Do you want political, social, or economic angles?
- Do you need primary sources or just a general overview?

Suddenly, the student isn't stuck anymore. They didn't have to know the "right" question at the start—they just needed to get the ball rolling.

Example: Small Business Owner

A small business owner might say: "Make me an ad for my landscaping company." AI will give them something, but it'll sound like every other landscaping ad.

Instead, imagine if they typed: "I need a Facebook ad for my landscaping business. I want it short, eye-catching, and geared toward homeowners who are too busy to mow their own lawns. Can you give me three options with different tones: professional, friendly, and funny?"

That’s still not perfect—but it’s way better. And the beauty is, you don’t have to think of all those details yourself. You can type the first vague ask, then follow with: “How can I make that question better so you give me stronger results?”

Let AI help you sharpen the very thing you’re asking it.

Done ☒☒Better ☒☒Best

Here’s the mindset shift: stop aiming for perfect, and start aiming for progress.

1. Done – Just get your idea out of your head and into the chat.
2. Better – Ask AI how to improve it.
3. Best – Refine until the result is something you’re proud of.

Think of it like cooking. The first draft is just tossing ingredients in the bowl. The second pass is tasting and adjusting. The third pass is plating it so it’s ready to serve.

Dad Joke Break

Asking AI a bad question and expecting a perfect answer is like asking your GPS, “Take me somewhere good.” Sure, you’ll end up somewhere... but probably not where you needed to go.

The Beginner’s Checklist

- Don’t wait for the perfect wording. Start messy.
- Ask AI to guide you into better wording.
- Think conversation, not command.
- Remember the ladder: Done ☒☒Better ☒☒Best.

The more you adopt this mindset, the faster you’ll get comfortable. Instead of staring at the blinking cursor, you’ll think, “Let’s just throw something out there and let the AI help me shape it.”

That’s how beginners get unstuck—and how you’ll learn faster than most people who are still trying to ask “Google-style” one-liners.

Chapter 3: The Art of Asking

By now you know the beginner’s mindset: start messy, then refine. But let’s go a little deeper. If mindset is the foundation, then the art of asking is the framing. This is where you learn to build questions that get solid answers the first time—and, just as importantly, learn how to guide the AI into sharpening them further. Conversation, Not Command Most people treat AI like a vending machine: punch in “make me a business plan” and expect it to spit out a finished product. But that’s the wrong picture. AI is closer to a brainstorming partner who needs direction. Think of it like this: if you ask a stranger in the grocery store, “What should I eat for dinner?” they’ll probably shrug. But if you say, “I’ve got chicken, rice, and a pressure cooker at home— what could I make for dinner in under 30 minutes?” now they’ve got something to work with. Alis the same way: the more context you give, the stronger the answer. The Three Ingredients of a Good Prompt

1.Context: Who you are, what you’re working on, what the situation is.

•Example: “I’m a high school student writing a paper” vs. “I’m a college senior writing a capstone research project.”

2. Constraints: What limits, preferences, or boundaries are in play.

•Example: "Make this 300 words, in plain English, suitable for a 10th grader."

3.Examples: Point to the style or tone you want.

•Example: "Write this in the style of a friendly teacher explaining it to their students."

When you combine context + constraints + examples, you give AI guardrails to stay on track.

Example: The Email Test

Aweak ask would be: "Write me an email about a fundraiser."

You'll get something generic, flat, and probably not very useful.

Astronger ask: "I need an email for parents about a school fundraiser for new band uniforms.

Keep it under 200 words, make it warm but professional, and include a clear call to action with thedate, time, and donation link."

Aneven better ask: "Draft three versions of a fundraising email for parents.

1.Formal/professional tone.

2.Warm and community-focused.

3.Light-hearted and fun.

Allunder 200 words, with the date (March 14), time (6 PM), and link (schoolfundraiser.com)."

Example: The Lesson Plan

Suppose you're a Sunday school teacher who needs a quick outline for a Bible lesson on David and Goliath.

Weak ask: "Write a lesson on David and Goliath."

Result: You'll get a generic story summary.

Better ask: "I need a 30-minute youth Bible study outline on David and Goliath. Break it into 3 main discussion points with a takeaway for teenagers. Keep the language simple but not childish."

Best ask: "Give me two versionsofa30-minute youth Bible study outline on David and Goliath.

•Version 1: Discussion-based,with3thought-provoking questions.

•Version 2: More structured,withashort activity included.

Both should end with a 2–3sentencetakeaway for teens about facing their own giants."

Dad Joke Break

A bad prompt is like asking a barber, “Just cut it.” You’ll get what you asked for... but don’t be surprised if you walk out looking like you lost a bet.

Using Iteration to Your Advantage

Even with context, constraints, and examples, you won’t always hit it right on the first try. That’s okay. That’s normal.

Here’s the trick: treat each answer as a draft, not the final word. You can always follow up with:

- “This is close, but make it shorter.”
- “Good start. Can you add a personal story to it?”
- “Rewrite this in simpler language.”

The back-and-forth is where the real value shows up. Think of it less like ordering fast food and more like working with a chef. You taste, you tweak, and you land on something worth serving. The Beginner’s Toolkit (Quick Prompts You Can Reuse)

- Refine: “Can you improve this question so I get a stronger answer?”
- Compare: “Give me 3 different approaches.”
- Simplify: “Rewrite this for a 5th grader.”
- Expand: “Add more detail and structure to this outline.”
- Style Shift: “Keep the content the same, but rewrite it in a [professional/friendly/funny] tone.”

The art of asking isn’t about being a wordsmith—it’s about giving AI enough to work with, then using the conversation to refine.

Start with context, add constraints, sprinkle in examples, and don’t stop after the first draft. Keep poking, prodding, and reshaping until it feels right. That’s how you move from generic output to something that’s actually usable in the real world.

Chapter 4: The Secret Weapon—Meta-Prompting

If there’s one thing that makes this book different from every other “AI guide” out there, it’s this chapter. Most people stop at “ask better questions.” That’s fine, but here’s the truth: you don’t always know the better question. And that’s okay—because AI can actually teach you how to ask it. I call this meta-prompting: using AI to help you build better prompts for AI. What Meta-Prompting Looks Like Think back to how this book started. I didn’t just sit down and hammer out a perfect outline. I told AI, “I want to put together a playbook, book, manual, or something along those lines for getting the most out of AI.” That’s vague. But instead of AI just spitting back a random answer, it guided me into clarifying: •Who it was for (beginners, but with tips for more advanced users). •What the goal was (teach concepts, not just dump prompts). •What makes it unique (helping readers learn how to sharpen their own questions). That’s meta-prompting. You let the AI coach you into saying what you actually mean.

Example: Business Plan

“Make me a business plan.” AI can do that—but it’ll be bland. Instead, use meta-prompting: “What questions should I ask you so you can help me build a strong business plan?”

AI might reply with:

- What’s your product or service?
- Who’s your target audience?
- What’s your pricing model?
- Do you have competitors, and how do you stand out?
- What’s your short-term and long-term goal?

Suddenly, you don’t just get a plan—you get clarity about what you need to decide.

Example: Custom GPT Instructions

You want to build a custom GPT that helps your church team prepare Bible study lessons. You type: “Write me instructions for a custom GPT that helps with lesson prep.” Too generic.

Now, meta-prompting: “What’s the best way to word my custom GPT instructions so it helps with Bible study prep in a clear, structured way?” Or: “Ask me the questions you’d need to build strong GPT instructions for lesson prep.”

AI might walk you through:

- Do you want it to provide only scripture references or also commentary?
- Should it keep to one translation (KJV, NIV, etc.) or allow multiple?
- Do you want it to suggest activities, or just outlines?
- Should it mimic your personal preaching/teaching style?

By the time you answer those, you’ve basically written the perfect custom GPT brief without struggling.

Example: IT Troubleshooting

The request is: “Write me a PowerShell script.” AI gives... something. But maybe not what you need.

With meta-prompting: “What details do you need from me to write the right PowerShell script?”

Alright ask:

- What’s the operating system?
- Are you running this as admin or user?
- Do you need this one-time or scheduled?
- Should it generate logs?

Now the script you get will actually fit the job.

Key Meta-Prompting Moves

- The Rewrite: “Can you rewrite my question so it’s clearer and more effective?”
- The Variations: “Give me three different ways to ask this, from simple to detailed.”
- The Checklist: “What am I leaving out of this question that you need to know?”
- The Role Play: “Act like a teacher and coach me into asking this better.”

Meta-prompting is like asking a waiter, “What should I tell you so the chef doesn’t burn my steak?”

You’re not just ordering—you’re learning how to order smarter.

Why This Matters

Anyone can copy and paste a list of “50 prompts for small businesses” off the internet. But that’s like using somebody else’s grocery list—you’ll end up with ingredients that don’t fit your kitchen. Meta-prompting teaches you how to make your own list. Instead of being stuck with pre-written prompts, you’ll learn to work with AI like a coach—one that helps you find the right question for the moment.

This one skill alone separates casual users from people who get real value.

Wrap-Up

The secret isn’t asking the perfect question. The secret is knowing how to get AI to help you shape it. You don’t have to be the expert question-asker. You just have to be willing to let AI guide you into better ones.

Chapter 5: From Idea to Result (The Prompt Ladder)

If you remember one tool from this book, let it be this: The Prompt Ladder.

The Prompt Ladder is a simple way to think about using AI. You don’t jump to the top rung on the first try. You start at the bottom with a messy, vague ask. Then you climb step by step, refining and reshaping, until you’ve got something polished and ready to use.

It’s not about getting it perfect the first time—it’s about using the process to make it better every round.

The Three Rungs of the Ladder

1. Vague Ask (bottom rung): Your messy, first-draft idea.
2. Refined Ask (middle rung): More context, constraints, and examples.
3. Final Draft (top rung): Polished, clear, and usable.

Case Study 1: The Student Essay

Vague: “Write me a paper on the Civil War.”

Refined: “I need a 5-page paper on the causes of the Civil War, written in plain English for a high school audience. Focus on political and economic factors, not battles. Include a clear thesis statement.”

Final: “Great start. Can you expand this into a 5-page outline with section headings, suggested primary sources, and 2–3 possible thesis statements I could choose from?”

Case Study 2: The Small Business Ad

Vague: “Make me an ad for my landscaping company.”

Refined: “I need a Facebook ad for my landscaping business. The audience is busy homeowners who want a great yard without the hassle. Keep it under 50 words, and write it in a friendly, approachable tone.”

Final: “Give me three variations of that ad: one professional, one warm/community-focused, and one funny. Each should include a call to action.”

Case Study 3: The IT Troubleshooting Script

Vague: “Write me a PowerShell script.”

Refined: “I need a PowerShell script to pull a list of all user accounts on a Windows 10 machine and export it to a CSV file. Run as admin, no extra formatting.”

Final: “Can you also include error handling and comments so a junior tech could understand how it works? Add an optional parameter so I can run it against a specific machine by hostname.”

Case Study 4: The Bible Study Lesson

Vague: “Write me a Bible study on David and Goliath.”

Refined: “I need a 30-minute youth Bible study on David and Goliath. Break it into 3 discussion points with questions teenagers can connect to. Keep the language simple but not childish.”

Final: “That’s good. Can you make two versions?”

1. A discussion-based outline with open-ended questions.
2. A structured outline with a short object lesson.

Both should end with a 2–3 sentence takeaway about courage and faith.”

Why the Ladder Works

- Step 1 gets you unstuck.
- Step 2 sharpens the output.
- Step 3 makes it practical.

The Prompt Ladder is your safety net. Start messy, refine, and polish. Every time you climb the ladder, you’ll walk away with something you can actually use—whether that’s an essay, an ad, a script, or a sermon.

Chapter 6: Workflows, Not Just One-Offs

Most beginners use AI like a pocketknife—they pull it out for one quick job, then toss it back in the drawer. That works, but it leaves most of the value on the table.

The real power comes when you start building workflows—ways of using AI not just for one-off answers, but as part of your regular rhythm of work, school, ministry, or business.

Think of AI as a teammate. You don’t call on a teammate once a month to kick the ball—you keep them in the game the whole time.

Workflow vs. One-Off

- One-Off: “Summarize this article for me.”
- Workflow: “Every Monday, help me scan three education blogs, summarize the key takeaways, and suggest one idea I could try this week with my students.”

One-off is a tool. Workflow is a system. And systems build momentum.

Example: The Student Workflow

1. Every week, help me summarize my reading assignments.
2. Break each reading into 3–5 main points, with examples.
3. Help me turn those points into study flashcards.
4. At the end of the week, quiz me on those flashcards.

Example: The Small Business Workflow

1. Each week, generate 3 social media post ideas based on current trends in landscaping/home care.
2. Draft captions in 2 tones: professional and funny.
3. Suggest 5 relevant hashtags.
4. At the end of the month, analyze which types of posts got the most engagement and recommend adjustments.

Example: The Ministry Workflow

1. Each Monday, summarize 3 scriptures related to the theme I'm praying about.
2. Help me brainstorm 2–3 teaching points teenagers can connect to.
3. Suggest one activity or object lesson.
4. By Thursday, help me polish a final outline in my own voice.

Example: The IT Workflow

1. Whenever I have to solve a recurring IT problem, help me write the script with clear comments.
2. Store those scripts in a standard format I can drop into documentation.
3. Help me draft a one-page how-to guide for junior techs.
4. At the end of the week, summarize the scripts I've made and suggest improvements.

Building Your Own Workflow

1. Identify what repeats.
2. Break it down.
3. Let AI slot in.
4. Turn it into a rhythm.

One-offs are good for saving 10 minutes. Workflows are good for saving hours every week.

One-offs give you answers. Workflows build systems that make you more consistent, more productive, and less stressed.

AI isn't just a tool for single questions—it can be a rhythm that undergirds your daily work. The secret is spotting the repeatable patterns and letting AI carry the load where it makes sense.

Chapter 7: Pitfalls & Guardrails

By now, you're probably feeling the excitement: "This AI stuff can do a lot." And you're right. But before you get too comfortable, we need to slow down and talk about the guardrails.

AI is powerful, but it's not perfect. In fact, some of its weaknesses are so sneaky they can trip up even experienced users. The goal of this chapter is simple: help you spot the traps early, and show you how to steer clear.

Pitfall 1: Blind Trust

A college student once asked AI for sources on the Great Depression. AI confidently gave them a list of books and journal articles, complete with titles, authors, and publication years. Looked perfect—except none of them actually existed. That's called a hallucination.

Guardrail: Always double-check sources in Google Scholar, your library, or Amazon.

Pitfall 2: Over-Reliance

A small business owner let AI write all their marketing posts. After a few months, every post sounded robotic. Engagement dropped.

Guardrail: Use AI as a draft partner, not a replacement. Keep your voice.

Pitfall 3: Forgetting the Human Factor

A man asked AI how to comfort his grieving coworker. The script was polite but fell flat.

Guardrail: Let AI suggest, but never outsource compassion or discernment.

Pitfall 4: The "One and Done" Trap

A preacher asked AI: "Write me a sermon on forgiveness." The result was bland. He never climbed the Prompt Ladder.

Guardrail: Don't settle for the first draft. Refine and iterate.

Pitfall 5: Ethical Shortcuts

A student turned in an AI-generated essay and got caught. They missed the point of learning. Guardrail: Use AI as a helper, not a ghostwriter. If you're a preacher, don't skip prayer and personal reflection.

The Guardrail Checklist

- Double-check facts.
- Keep your voice.
- Don't outsource wisdom.
- Refine, don't settle.
- Stay ethical.

AI is powerful, but only if you use it wisely. Think of AI like a chainsaw. It can help you cut down a tree in minutes—or make a dangerous mess if you ignore the safety gear.

Chapter 8: Leveling Up

By now, you've learned how to ask good questions, how to refine them, and how to build workflows. That alone will put you ahead of most people who only use AI for quick one-off answers.

But if you're ready to take the next step, let's talk about how to level up—how to use AI not just as a conversation partner, but as a customizable platform for your work, business, or ministry.

Custom GPTs: Your Personalized AI

ChatGPT has a feature called Custom GPTs. Think of these like your own AI assistants that you can “train” with instructions. Instead of telling the AI every time, you can bake your preferences right into it.

- A student could create a GPT that always explains things at a 10th-grade level, with examples and study questions.
- A business owner could create one that writes in their brand's voice, always keeps answers under 200 words, and includes a call-to-action.
- A preacher could build one that always references KJV Scripture, suggests discussion questions, and avoids denominational commentary.

Copilot: AI Inside Your Apps

Microsoft has been weaving AI directly into Word, Excel, Outlook, and Teams through Copilot.

- In Word, it can draft contracts, letters, or reports based on a few bullet points.
- In Excel, it can explain formulas, build charts, and analyze trends.
- In Outlook, it can summarize long email threads and suggest quick replies.
- In Teams, it can give you meeting notes, action items, and highlights automatically.

Gemini: Google's Answer

On the Google side, Gemini is being built into Docs, Gmail, and Sheets.

- In Docs, it can summarize, rewrite, or suggest edits on the fly.
- In Gmail, it can draft responses or highlight the most important emails.
- In Sheets, it can help analyze data with plain-English commands.

Automations & Connectors

- Calendar Connector: “Every Friday, summarize my meetings and highlight action items.”
- Email Connector: “Tag important emails and draft responses to the top three each morning.”
- Sheets Connector: “Pull warranty data from serial numbers automatically and alert me to expired devices.”

Using AI to Build Products

- Digital Templates
- Planners & Journals
- Courses
- Simple Apps (with AI walking you through step-by-step)

Gentle Guardrail

Don't jump into every shiny feature at once. Pick one that makes sense for your life, master it, and then add the next.

Leveling up is about shifting from user to builder. Instead of just asking questions, you start shaping the AI itself—training it, connecting it, and letting it extend your reach.

Chapter 9: The Real Point

We've covered a lot: how AI works, how to start messy, how to refine, how to climb the Prompt

Ladder, how to use meta-prompting, how to build workflows, how to avoid pitfalls, and even how to level up.

But here's the real point: AI is just a tool.

It's not wisdom. It's not truth. It's not a replacement for your experience, your creativity, or your values. It's an amplifier. Whatever you bring to it—good or bad—AI will magnify it.

Better Questions ☒☒ Better Conversations ☒☒ Better Results

If you take nothing else from this book, take this: the power is in the perfect question. The power is in the conversation.

- Don't freeze up waiting for the "right" wording. Start messy.
- Don't settle for the first draft. Climb the ladder.
- Don't try to be the expert prompter. Let AI guide you into asking better questions.
- Don't treat it like a vending machine. Treat it like a partner.

The Guardrails Still Matter

AI can help you write, plan, study, and even build products—but without guardrails, it'll also lead you into blind spots. Always double-check facts. Keep your own voice. Don't outsource wisdom. And never shortcut the process that builds character, learning, or faith.

- AI can draft a sermon outline—but it can't replace prayer.
- It can write a business plan—but it can't carry your grit and work ethic.
- It can coach your questions—but only you can live with integrity.

Your Next Step

- Pick something small you need today (an email, a plan, a summary).
- Start with a messy ask.
- Use AI to sharpen the question.
- Climb the ladder to a polished result.

Going Deeper: Customization

One of the most overlooked ways to get the most out of AI is through customization. Whether it's

ChatGPT's custom instructions, a custom GPT, or Gemini and Copilot's personalization settings, you can train AI to work in your voice, for your goals.

And here's the key: you don't have to figure it out alone. You can literally ask AI:

- "Guide me through setting up the best custom instructions for my needs."
- "What information about my work, preferences, and goals would help you serve me better?"
- "If I wanted to make a custom GPT for [teaching, business, ministry], what should I include?"

By letting AI walk you through setting itself up, you remove the guesswork. The same principle that helps you write better prompts also helps you unlock the most beneficial customizations—tailored to you.

Final Word:

AI is powerful. But wisdom is greater. Use the tool, but never forget the craftsman matters more than the hammer.

If you bring curiosity, integrity, and persistence to the table, AI will multiply it. If you bring laziness, shortcuts, or blind trust, AI will multiply that too.

So use it well.

Ask better.

Build better.

Live better.

Because at the end of the day, the real point isn't AI.

It's you.