

The Solace Manifesto: Reclaiming the Sacred in the Age of Al

Spirituality isn't just about personal belief—it's the foundation of our communities, our compassion, and our collective well-being. For centuries, it has guided how we live, how we give, and how we connect. But the sacred is slipping away, and the consequences are profound.

We Are Solace.

We believe **the erosion of faith is a crisis with far-reaching consequences**, and restoring spiritual engagement is essential to healing our fractured world.

The Crisis We Face

- **Loneliness is an epidemic.** Nearly half of Americans report feeling lonely, with devastating mental health implications, particularly among teens and young adults.
- **Deaths of despair are on the rise.** Suicide, substance abuse, and related deaths have surged, reflecting a lack of purpose and connection.
- **Philanthropy and civic engagement are in decline.** Faith-based organizations historically drive a significant share of charitable giving and volunteering. As spirituality recedes, so too does community care.

• **Bowling Alone is our reality.** Robert Putnam's warnings about the decline of social capital have only accelerated. The institutions that foster belonging and shared purpose are fading.

At the heart of these crises is a spiritual void. When faith and meaning erode, so does the fabric that holds us together as a society. We need **more and better spiritual engagement**, and we need it now.

The Solace Vision: A New Era for Spirituality

We envision a world where **faith flourishes in the digital age**, where spirituality is revitalized through tools that are as innovative as they are inclusive. Solace leverages emerging platforms like AI and VR to create transformative experiences that meet people where they are—online, in virtual sacred spaces, or through personalized spiritual guidance.

What We Stand For

1. Faith as a Force for Social Good

Spiritual engagement isn't just personal—it's foundational to our collective well-being. Solace empowers communities to reimagine faith's role in addressing loneliness, mental health, and societal cohesion.

2. Technology as a Catalyst for Connection

Al and VR aren't threats to tradition; they're opportunities to deepen it. Our tools don't replace human connection—they amplify it, creating new pathways to belonging and purpose.

3. The Sacred Without Boundaries

Spirituality should be as accessible as your smartphone and as immersive as your dreams. Solace eliminates barriers, enabling anyone, anywhere, to connect with the divine in meaningful ways.

4. Restoring Trust and Purpose

Declining trust in institutions has left many searching for meaning. Solace provides ethical, empathetic tools that restore trust and create spaces for authentic spiritual discovery.

5. Daring to Innovate

Like AirBnB in travel or Anduril in defense, Solace is disrupting a stagnant system. We're not tweaking spirituality—we're reimagining it for the modern world.

The Solace Solution

Through innovative technology, Solace is pioneering **GodTech**:

- **AI-Powered Spiritual Agents**: Personalized guides that offer support, prayer, and insights tailored to individual needs.
- **Virtual Sacred Spaces**: Immersive environments for worship, reflection, and community-building, accessible anywhere in the world.
- **Data-Driven Engagement**: Tools that help faith leaders understand and better serve their communities, creating deeper connections and impact.

These aren't just technologies—they're lifelines to a more connected, compassionate, and purpose-driven society.

The Case for Action

We believe spirituality has the **highest social impact** because it underpins so much of what we believe and how we function as a democratic, diverse society. Faith fuels philanthropy. It builds communities. It creates resilience.

But it's under attack—from secular apathy to institutional inertia. The world doesn't need more empty rituals or outdated frameworks. It needs a spiritual revolution—bold, inclusive, and future-focused.

Why Me? The Passion Behind Solace

I'm Scott Lyon, Founder and CEO of Solace. My journey has always been one of bridging gaps—between people, ideas, and the divine.

I've spent my career at the intersection of innovation and impact, from being on the ground floor launch team of Cars.com and BankMobile to delivering a <u>TED Talk</u> on the Future of Spirituality. As a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Business School, and a Rhodes Scholarship finalist, I've had the privilege of exploring how technology can reshape industries. But nothing drives me more than this: the chance to restore spirituality as a vital force in our lives.

I've seen what's possible when tradition meets innovation. Solace is my way of creating tools that honor faith while transforming how it's experienced. This isn't just a mission—it's a calling.

Our Promise

We are the architects of spirituality's next chapter. Solace is building the **Spiritual OS of the 21st century**—a framework that is ethical, inclusive, and transformative. Whether you're a pastor, a seeker, or someone searching for purpose, Solace is here to help.

Join the Movement

- If you want to build at the intersection of spirituality and technology, come work with us.
- If you want your religious institution or faith-based community to have access to best in class digital engagement, come partner with us.
- If you want to restore spirituality's rightful place in a thriving society, come invest in us.

Solace isn't just a company. It's a movement to reclaim the sacred and rebuild the social fabric. Together, we can disrupt despair and create a future where faith is a force for good.

Let's make the sacred revolutionary. Together.

#FutureofSpirituality