TOPIC OF THE WEEK

IS TECHNOLOGY AN ANSWER

1

Technology can be an answer—but it cannot be *the* answer.

That distinction may be crucial.

Technology **extends human capability**. It can give us more knowledge, more energy, better medicine, better communication, and new ways of solving problems. But technology does not independently determine **what problems are worth solving** or **what kind of future is desirable**.

The paradox of technology

Technology can simultaneously be:

- **a solution** — renewable energy can reduce emissions;
- **a multiplier** — AI can amplify human knowledge and productivity;
- **a danger** — the same technological sophistication can amplify warfare, surveillance or manipulation;
- **a dependency** — societies can become unable to function without increasingly complex technological systems.

So the important question isn't simply:

> **"Can technology save humanity?"**

It is:

> **"Can humanity govern its technology?"**

And that takes us back to our earlier question about political imperatives.

Technology without wisdom

Imagine giving humanity:

infinite power + inadequate judgment.

The result isn't necessarily progress.

Now imagine:

limited power + extraordinary wisdom.

That might be frustrating—but considerably safer.

Technology increases what we **can** do.

It doesn't necessarily increase our ability to decide **what we ought to do**.

That distinction is ancient. Technology changes our **means**; it does not automatically provide our **ends**.

Perhaps the 21st-century equation is

Humanity + technology + wisdom = possibility

but

Humanity + technology − responsibility = danger

And this connects surprisingly closely to your earlier question about **behaviour**.

Perhaps the problem isn't fundamentally technological.

2. Technology can change our **behaviour**.

But who changes the behaviour of the people who create, control and deploy the technology?

That brings us to a much deeper question:

> **Is humanity's greatest technological challenge actually humanity itself?**

And perhaps that is the uncomfortable possibility: **we don't need technology merely to change the world—we may need wisdom to change how we use the power we already have.**