

If you "do" emails, phone texts, or social networks, you probably receive a daily deluge of communication, no matter if short hand messaging is used. ⁽²⁾ In today's world, electronic communication often reflects each day's responsibilities, routines, and requests.

These same communication avenues, however, can encourage growth in personal relationships and spiritual maturity, especially for a husband and wife. To illustrate this potential, allow me to share some of the emails that my wife sent to me over a few weeks. Not knowing that any of these messages were ever to be made public, she gave me permission to share her words for God's glory with the hope that other husbands and wives would receive benefit. She wrote:

"I could never tell you how much I adore you. Aside from our precious Savior (who is, of course, in a league of His own!), you are my dearest friend, my most valued treasure, my love."

"Thank you for loving me."

"To say I love you is to say I want to be all that God wants me to be for you...it means I can't (and don't want to) imagine life without you...it means that you are a gift I treasure...it means so much more than words can capture! I am and evermore shall be YOURS."

"You're the best!"

"I love you! I pray your headache goes away and you have a wonderful day in Jesus. I love you!! I love you!!!" love you!!!"

"You are truly 'the better half'—in fact, you are sooooo much more than half. With regard to our financial situation, God will make a way for us...He just has a way of letting us get to the brink. Perhaps this is the brink He asks us to go over, perhaps not, but we are safe in His care. I love you, babe."

"I love you, adore you, thank God for you, and love being with you through any and all circumstances. The one who loves you! Yours!!!"

"Even when I don't feel up to par, I love you lots and lots. You are so good to me!"

"Thank you for the date day ;-) Mostly, thank you for loving me! I love you so very, very much!!"

"I am praying for you today...that God will be with you in a special way...that you will sense His presence...that He will guard your heart and mind...and that you will know that you are dearly, deeply loved (by moi). I love you, babe!"

"Are you getting tired or bored of your daily emails? I will NEVER tire of reminding you that I love you deeply, dearly, and completely. I am REALLY, Yours!"

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea (Psalm 46:1-2).

Trusting God alongside you, your wife who adores you

Obviously, I could never tire of getting messages like the above. When I go through my daily messages, I find myself looking for that special message from my wife, the life companion that the Lord has provided as a special gift to me.

When everyday life is swirling around you, think of the encouragement you could have by receiving a message from someone who cares for you. If you could benefit from such communication, remember the Golden Rule—So whatever you wish that others would do to you do also to them... (Matthew 7:12). ^(C) It only takes a few seconds to text or email

your loved one, but the effect can last for hours, even days. Plus, the message can be saved for a future time when encouragement is needed.

Suggestion: When you finish reading this, ask the Lord to give you gracious words of love and appreciation that you can text or email to your wife or husband, the **1 u luv**.

Whether or not you are married, plan to send a brief message of appreciation to your parents, or your children, or to someone who has profoundly impacted your life for God's glory and your growth in Christ. You might even pick seven people who have greatly impacted your life and send each a message of appreciation and scriptural encouragement one day a week over the next month. Electronic communication can be used for more than appointments, "to do" lists, directories, and requests. Take advantage of these communication tools and build up one another for the glory of God!