

Two Thumbs-Up for Smart Technologies!

I double-checked the message I had just texted to a close friend on my new smartphone. I couldn't help but smile!

I had just texted her a note of total encouragement—clocking in, I'll have you know, at just under 15 seconds! This was smart technology in hand, and I was using my thumbs to put it to use with lightning speed!

Proud as punch, I decided to press a button to re-read my note of “You are being used so greatly!” That was what *I thought* I had typed but, much to my horror, I found something else: “You are being *sued* so greatly!” Oh dear.

I took some comfort when I remembered another friend who had recently shot off a loving text message to her hubby at work—“You're simply THE BEST!”—only to find out that her lightning-speed typing had sent him: “*You're simply THE BEAST!*” (with “THE BEAST” shouting in bold capital letters).

As I sat and flexed my thumbs, I pondered the incredible communication tool in my hand, and also its limitations. Our smartphones can't tell if you or I are throwing a “brick or a bouquet.” That means that it's up to you and me to find words that—no matter how rushed we are—encourage and convey the feelings that we *really intend*.

Well, you and I can either look at the smart, in-hand technologies as a threat to global peace (in the wrong hands) or a blessing

from God that will allow us as believers to show His love. After all, God is love (see 1 John 4:8) and we are the Lord's ambassadors (see 2 Cor. 5:20).

To use our smartphones as an expression of the Lord's love for friends and family is a very good thing. But in this technological day and age, we must be cautious not only of our tongues, as the Bible warns, but also of our thumbs.

Be careful to send words of life and encouragement. But if a mistyped word goes through or one comes your way, remember that "a merry heart does good, like medicine" (Prov. 17:22)—God can use even a simple text message to bring us His joy.

PRAYER POWER FOR THE WEEK OF 4/11/2011

This week pray that the Lord will help you use everything at your disposal to share His love, joy and words of encouragement to others. Ask Him to make you sensitive to His leading when using all the technology available to us today. Continue to pray for our military and their families as they serve in Afghanistan and other parts of the world. Remember those recovering from the ravages of natural disasters in Japan and other affected nations. Ask God to unite believers to pray in one accord for His global purpose, and to provide wisdom and protection for leaders of the free world—such as our allies, President Obama and other government leaders. Pray for the persecuted church, Israel and a new peace to come to

the Middle

East. 1 Tim. 2:1-4; 2 Cor.

5:20