

The Manic Texter

When I was in college I dreamed of ways that text messages could be sent from one person to another. I even worked on the design of it after I took a class on integrated circuits. I could never have imagined the way that current technology has given everyone the ability to text each other so easily and often.

It is a great social tool, but it comes with a price. It can be easily abused. Every once in a while I have to deal with a phenomenon that I call the “manic texter”. You rarely hear from someone, and then suddenly you are bombarded by a series of demanding message texts.

I have a firm policy on this: I don’t immediately respond, I delay for an hour or so before I respond (if I do). If I respond quickly while the person is in the manic mode, they will just bombard me again with multiple strikes.

Someone in our Sunday School class¹ asked the question “How does God deal with us?”, and I thought that to Him we may be just like the manic texter. Perhaps God has the same reaction and uses the same strategy. Just because He imposes a waiting period on us before answering does not mean that he isn’t listening. He is just slowing us down to give us a chance to think a little, and perhaps to settle down. He knows that He will work it all out in the end².

1. Thanks to Jan Banks
2. see Romans 8:28