



Servant's Corner

August 2014

What Do You Have?

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

Let me tell you what I do not have. I do not have an iPhone 5s. It is the newest, top of the line iPhone available (until the iPhone 6 comes out later this year). If I focus on the fact that I don't have an iPhone 5s, I could become very unsatisfied. If I am the only one in my social circle who doesn't have an iPhone 5s, I might even feel poor.

Now let me tell you what I do have. I have an iPhone 4s—the top of the line model before the 5s came out. It is an immensely powerful tool that I barely know how to use. Other than making phone calls, sending text messages and checking email, the capacities of this tool are nearly a total mystery to me. (I have had the phone 2 months and haven't downloaded a single app.)

Often times, when we work with people in need, the focus is on what they **don't** have. We ask, "How can we help you?" Their answer focuses on what they lack—e.g. "I don't have enough money to pay my rent. My car isn't running and needs to be repaired. My health is poor and I can't keep up with my house cleaning."

I found a fascinating insight from a fellow Love INC Director. She points out that when God approaches people in need, He typically asks not, "What do you lack" but "What do you have?" Here's two of many examples: When Moses was feeling completely overwhelmed with his new assignment, God asked, "What is that in your hand?" He showed Moses how his simple staff could be a tool to display God's power. (Exodus 4:1-5). When the disciples faced the hungry crowd of 5,000, Jesus asked them, "How many **loaves** do you have? Go look!" (Mark 6:38). Their faith grew as they saw what He did with their meager supplies.

Next time you are called on to help a person in need, (or feel a lack in your own life for that matter) instead of focusing on what is lacking, focus on what you do have. For me, it would be learning all the capabilities of my iPhone 4s before feeling the need to stand in line to buy a iPhone 6 when they are released. What do **you** have?



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