



Servant's Corner

November 2012

Service That Springs From Gratitude

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

*“in everything give thanks: for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

“When in doubt, consult an expert”. One of the bylines we use to describe our ministry is, “Helping Christians develop a **lifestyle** of service.” A few years ago I had lunch with a Christian brother who I consider an expert in this area. For decades this man has been serving in whatever venue the Lord opens up for him: prison ministry, pastoral work, marketplace ministry, to name a few. The past few years he has focused on serving his wife who suffered a brain injury and needs his daily help.

Over lunch, I asked what had enabled him to develop a lifestyle of service. I could see the tears well up in his eyes as he said, **“I’m just so grateful the Lord chose me. I want other people to have what I have.”** He said service done out of obligation won’t last. He’s right. The recipients of our service can feel the difference too. Service done out of obligation makes the recipient feel like they are a “project”. Service done out of a heart of gratitude feels like...well, it feels like Jesus is loving the person through us—which is exactly what is happening.

The upcoming Thanksgiving season is a wonderful time to focus on the spiritual discipline of giving thanks. As you discipline yourself to thank God for the grace He has lavished on you, don’t be surprised if you find you are more inclined to serve others.



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