



Servant's Corner

October 2013

Do You Have A Lifestyle Of Service?

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who... emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant... Philippians 2:5,7a

How can we know if we have developed a lifestyle of service? What test can assure us that we have moved beyond doing occasional acts of service to actually **becoming** a servant like our Lord Jesus? I believe a good test is the recuperation test—how long does it take for you to **recover** from serving others?

In the physical realm, the recuperation test lets a person know what kind of shape they are in. Someone who is in the habit of running long distances might need a few days to recuperate from a marathon. They might need to soak their sore feet for a few nights, get some extra sleep and take a break from running for a few days. For me, a non-runner, it would take a prolonged hospital stay and several months of physical therapy!

The same principle applies to the spiritual discipline of service. A person who is in the habit of serving others will need to take some time to recharge their batteries. Jesus regularly snuck away for private time alone with His Father, even during busy seasons of ministry (e.g. Mark 1:35). But because serving was His normal mode of living, He was able to recover quickly and jump right back into ministry.

So how long is your recovery time? A simple test is to ask, “When was the last time I served someone?” If it takes a lot of head-scratching to come up with the answer, that’s a sign that service is not yet a lifestyle. How do you change that? Ask the Lord to open your eyes to service opportunities He places before you. Then watch as your stamina grows. What’s happening? You aren’t just choosing to serve; you’re actually **becoming a servant**.



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