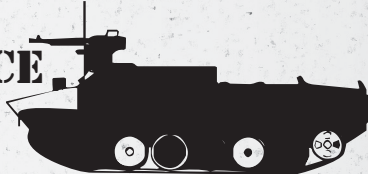


ACTS OF SERVICE



WARM UP

I once counselled a person who told me all the different acts of service he'd done to show his wife how much he loved her. This was obviously his love language. Unfortunately the problem was, although he was showing his wife love with every act of service he could think of, she did not understand his language.

How important it is for us to be able to interpret the actions of those who love us, whether it be a spouse, family member or friend.



BACKGROUND

In John 13:3-17 there was opportunity for any of the disciples to wash the feet of others, but Jesus was the one to show His love by this act of service. What a powerful message this is to us.

Acts of service must be an expression of love. When people serve out of compulsion, fear or guilt, the freedom to serve is lost, and resentment develops.

In Gary Chapman's book *The Five Love Languages*, we find a very powerful statement: "Requests give direction to love, but demands stop the flow of love". When it comes to acts of service, requests are positive. "I would really appreciate it if you would..." is far more easily received than "You didn't put the rubbish out, you lazy slob! Go and do it!"

READ 2 Kings 4:11-13; John 13:3-17



QUESTIONS

1. How freely do you express acts of service to others?

2. In 2 Kings 4:11-13 the prophet wanted to do something to show his appreciation. What acts of service have you done for others recently?

3. What acts of service have others done for you?

4. What acts of service could you do to show your love to

- a friend?
- your parents, brothers or sisters?
- your spouse?

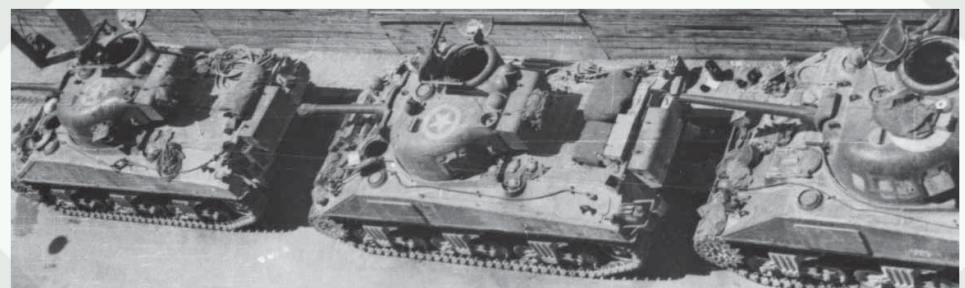
Parenting is a service-oriented vocation. If you have children, what acts of service could you do to show each of your children that you love them?



IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

I will ask the Lord to show me ways to demonstrate my love and the love of the Lord to others by doing acts of service.



CONSIDER THIS

Fearing failure, many of us men tend to procrastinate. However, delays to requests for acts of service are interpreted as a lack of love by those who speak this language. As Bill Subritzky once advised me, "Do it now!"

So I determined after a PK Event to try and do one small act of service each night when I come home from work.

WRAP UP

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."
Ecclesiastes 9:10.

If you are married, I challenge you to go home and ask your spouse to write a list of five things she would have you do to show her that you love her. Give her your list as well. You will be pleasantly surprised at what she wants.

If you are single, do this for someone else, such as a family member or friend.