

“We All Contribute”
By Tom Hanson
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Definition: Contribute—To give along with others.

Romans 15:26 ...a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

This is the only time the word ‘contribution’ is used in the whole Bible. Notice that the Gentiles of Achaia and Macedonia were helping the native Israelites. It took humility on both sides.

This message has four parts:

1. Who contributes?
2. Why do we contribute?
3. What is an acceptable contribution?
4. Where and when do we contribute?

1. Who contributes? A person or a people who have made themselves ready.

Genesis 4:9 ...the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering...

Notice that the LORD had respect unto Abel’s offering. Was Cain’s offering too mechanical perhaps? There are two points here about contributing: One, we need to make a righteous contribution, AFTER prayer to God. Two, we ARE our brother’s keeper and that is a major contribution that we are expected to make as well. God will accept a contribution from someone who will give respect unto God. This body of flesh must be kept in check.

2 Chronicles 7:14 ...pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways...

If we say that we have not sinned, then we lie, and we make Him a liar (1 John 1:10). We need to keep cleansing ourselves before God, that we may continue to be used by Him.

Isaiah 66:2 ...to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit...

The word ‘contrite’ means crushed. We have all felt the crushing of our spirit at times in our lives and truly when we are crushed by the overwhelming situations that befall us at times, God is there for us. He replaces the emptiness of loss with His presence (sometimes that loss is one’s own self).

Micah 6:8 ...to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

These are not big requirements. We need to keep ourselves in a right perspective with God as our Master in our lives, wholly dependent on Him in all things at all times.

Luke 18:9-14 ...God be merciful to me, a sinner...

We must always remember that we, too, are sinners, and we have no righteousness of our own selves—righteousness is only granted us by the mercy and compassion of God if we allow Him to keep us by our own voluntary humility in obeying His Word. NOTE: a Pharisee was a separatist, exclusive in his religion; a publican was a tax collector. In Jesus' time, Pharisees had become elitists, corrupted by their own vain religious practices; they had lost the common touch—they forgot their humble beginnings. Publicans, on the other hand, were generally despised, something like lawyers today.

Our religious patterns don't justify us before God, our humble and honest approach to God is accepted, no matter what others may think of us. NOTE: Not every sacrifice is accepted by God, so it is of utmost importance that we examine ourselves, and our motivations, and our attitude before Almighty God before we offer ourselves or our efforts to Him.

2. Why do we contribute? Simple. It is our duty to care about God's work and those around us. We approach contributing with a servant's heart.

Psalms 116:16 O LORD, truly I am Thy servant; I am Thy servant...

Ecclesiastes 12:13 ...keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Luke 17:10 ...We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty...

Our duty is God-given, and if that doesn't inspire a person to do their best in all things then something is wrong, and it isn't God. NOTE: The Word of God is full examples of our duty to serve God. We are created unto good works (Ephesians 2:10).

3. What is an acceptable contribution? One that is given properly.

Matthew 12:41-44 ...she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

God is not "money intensive," but He is "heart intensive." Here is truly the heart of the message. This woman gave more than they all, and still it was not much in a physical sense. God looks on the heart of the person that is giving, offering, and contributing, BEFORE He looks at anything else.

4. Where and when do I contribute? Here and now.

Romans 12:1-2 ...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God...

Conclusion: Everybody contributes to this great salvation ministry of God. We just need to prepare ourselves and contribute our talents and efforts from a godly vessel that God has cleansed and will accept. Proper preparation will always be our top priority as we contribute to the work of God throughout our lives on this earth.

