
“Don’t Compete. Don’t Compare. Just Contribute!”

(An excerpt from upcoming book “Turn it Loose!” by Jesús Maymi)

Some of you may remember, sometime ago, a popular song from the Disco era with the lyrics that said “You don’t have to be a star (to be in my show)”. This hit became very popular and was tearing up dance floors across the country. Til this day many who hear the song remember it well. I was probably about ten when that song played all over the radio. Recently, this song took on a different meaning for me. Let me explain.

All of us, in one form or another, carry a thread of healthy competitiveness, a desire to achieve, the need for recognition, attention, appreciation, and the calling to make a difference. I believe that these traits are woven in the fabric of our spirit. There are varying degrees of these traits from individual to individual: some have higher levels of the traits (over-achievers) and some have very little (underachievers). It is usually the over-achievers, though, that seem to struggle the most with two common challenges: the need to compete and the need to compare. Most over-achievers thrive on being first, getting the recognition, being counted as the best or one of the best, being the “star” of the show. As a result, we find ourselves always looking for a competitive edge or comparing ourselves to others and their achievements or accomplishments. Can anyone relate? Although, this behavior can certainly produce great results and accomplishments, I’ve learned that mindset is not what GOD is looking for in His servants. GOD is not looking for Christians to compete with each other nor to compare with each other. He is simply looking for us to contribute.

It is easy to look at that Pastor, or that Church, or that leader, or that author and begin to compare ourselves with them. We begin to measure ourselves up against their accomplishments. We examine what we have done (or not have done), whether a little or a lot, with what some other Christian is doing. Remember this, GOD is not interested in competition nor in comparison but in your contribution. In Luke 9:46-48 (*The Message*), we see that the disciples ask Jesus a question about “who would be the most famous among them”. As you read on, Jesus made it clear that it was not about that which mattered. Jesus was not interested in their competitions nor comparisons to each other but in their contributions. One more thing to add, your contributions of time, money, resources, words, energy, talents, must be laced with sincerity and accompanied with the right heart. After all, “God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.” (2 Cor 9:7 *The Message*).

God calls everyone to contribute in some aspect. To some He gives much and to some a little less, but with whatever He has given He expects a return. He is not concerned with our competitiveness, our attention getting, our worldly comparisons but simply for us to do what He has called us to do with our best effort and intention. He promises “He will never forget your work and the love you have shown Him...” (Hebrews 6:10). And much like the song mentioned earlier, with God, you don’t have to be a star to be in His show.

By Jesús Maymi