

# Victory's Voice

Victory Worship International

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## What is The Grasshopper Myth?

Lately I've been talking about a new mind set we need to develop as a local church, which is essential to being a **healthy body!** This healthy mind set has to do with church growth, mainly spiritual church growth. And how you and I view the local church, a successful local church. And that is the question. **What is a successful church in the eyes of God?** After all, He should know, He birthed the church. To answer that question, we must answer the above question first.

**What is the grasshopper myth? Definition:** **The false impression that our Small Church ministry is less than what God says it is because we compare ourselves with others.** **Origin:** The Hebrews at the edge of the Promised Land. All the people we saw there are of great size. ...We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them: **Numbers 13:32-33** **Symptoms:** Lack of vision, faith, courage, effectiveness and freedom. **Prognosis:** A lifetime of wandering, whining and placing blame. And yes, it is contagious. **Treatment:** There's a New Small Church in town – a place of hope and healing. **We've discovered the benefits of thinking small.** And it's got nothing to do with small thinking. **We've come to realize that our small size is not a problem to be fixed, but a strategic advantage God wants to use.** We're heading out with **vision, faith and courage** into places God wants us to go. Places giants cannot tread.

**And I Am Not a Failure If my church is small,** how can I call myself, my church or my ministry a success? How can I even call the church healthy? Don't all healthy things grow? Yes they do. **The problem is that too many of us have defined church success and health by numbers.** And not just by any numbers. By two specific numbers. Butts in the seats and bucks in the offering. The higher the better. **This obsession with numerical growth is not healthy.**

The Lord wants quality; He wants genuine followers that are faithful to Him at all costs. We are to build our lives on Him, and not on the principles of the world. And we are to leave quantity up to Him. Jesus

said: **Matt 16:18** *18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church,** and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. Jesus is the builder, so all growth, numerical and spiritual is up to Him. Our focus is to build our **lives upon the Rock,** and not upon the sand! Jesus said: **Matt 7:24-27** *24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to **a wise man who built his house on the rock:** 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."**

We want to be wise people who build our lives **on the Rock who is Jesus,** and all He has taught us, not on the principles of this world, **which is sand.** Our vocabulary must change; we must speak the words of Jesus. Jesus does not measure success by what is large or small, but upon **our obedience.** Jesus said: **Matt 7:21-23** *21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but **he who does the will of My Father** in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, **you who practice lawlessness!**' As long as we seek to **please the Father only,** we will always be a success in the eyes of our Lord, and we will always overcome the giants in our lives, even though we may feel like grasshoppers as we face them. Jesus said: **John 8:29** *And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, **for I always do those things that please Him.**"**

Until the trumpet sounds, 1 Thess. 4:13-18

*Pastor George*

