

Matthew 13:8

But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

A strawberry plant is small, yet it produces fruit. It's not as large as an apple tree, nor does it produce the same amount of fruit as an apple tree does. Yet it still produces fruit, good, sweet fruit that anyone would enjoy, just as they would enjoy the fruit off of an apple tree.

I have been a part of both large mega churches (3,500 plus 9 satellite campuses) as well as extremely small churches (20 people meeting in a grade school auditorium every Sunday). But regardless of the size of the church, I was always fed spiritually.

I know for some of the smaller churches, they desire to be larger with more attendance and growth to the point that a larger building needs to be built. And I understand the heart behind it, wanting to make a difference in the eternity of others in the community, and wanting to help others grow in God's word. But they must remember (and so should you if the church you attend is a smaller church) that just like my opening example of a strawberry plant verses an apple tree, that both are necessary and both produce fruit.

Just because a church is small, does not mean that it does not produce fruit. Maybe not as much as a mega church would, and yes the Mega church is needed and produces fruit like a small church does (strawberry vs apple). And God has called some churches to be strawberry plants, still producing fruit, and He has called some churches to be apple trees, also producing fruit. The key is not the size of the church, but rather is the church producing fruit, regardless of the size.

Jesus said that *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."* John 15:5

"He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit" Jesus never says how much fruit, or that only those large churches or large ministries will produce fruit. Jesus also refers to faith like a mustard seed, which is a tiny seed, yet even though it is so tiny, it still produces fruit, and fruit in abundance.

† **Matthew 13:31-32** *Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."*

So, don't seek to go to a larger church if the Lord is using you in a smaller church, and if He is not using you in the smaller church that you are attending, it could be that you are unwilling to

serve because you want to be part of what the world calls a “Mega Church”, so that you can have some sort of status because you serve or go to a Mega Church.

Also, think about this.

Would you continue to go to a produce stand because they always had an abundance of fruit, which was actually not that good? Or would you rather go to a smaller produce stand that you knew that they didn't have an abundance of fruit, yet the fruit that they had was awesome? Once again, the amount of the fruit has nothing to do with it, but rather the quality of the fruit. And just because a church is large does not mean that it is producing good fruit. A lot of the fruit may be that old plastic fruit (artificial fruit), like your grandma has in a wicker basket on her kitchen table, that's there for only looks, but never benefits others, other than eye candy. Don't go to a church to be a part of eye candy but be a part of the good fruit that the church is producing, be it a strawberry, grape, or apple.

† **Matthew 7:17-20** *Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

† **Mark 10:31 (NLT2)** *But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.*