

SmallTown.Church | *The Stigma Of Small*

SmallTown.Church Conference - James Johnson-Hill

THE MYTHS OF SMALL

1. Small does not mean a **lack of excellence**
2. Small does not mean **poor**
3. Small does not mean **insignificant**

OUR DEEPEST FEAR – SMALL TOWN PASTOR VERSION

by Marianne Williamson / modified by James Johnson-Hill

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate **to God**. Our deepest fear is that **our impact is too small for other people to measure**. It is **the size of our offering**, not **the hidden darkness of personal struggle** that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, **how come my church isn’t larger, how come I’m not on the main stage or featured in some way?** Actually, **what if you’re not supposed to be?** You are a child of God. Your **small definition of success** does not serve the world **and does not advance the Kingdom**. There is nothing **honorable** about **shrinking in your thinking or minimizing your assignment** so that **you** won't feel insecure **when no one** is around you. We are all meant to shine, as **all God’s children** do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us **and there is nothing small about that**. It’s not just in some of us; it's in everyone **and there is nothing small about that**. And as we let **the light of Jesus** shine **in our own lives**, we give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear of being **insignificant in the eyes of others**, the presence **of God** and the **power of the Holy Spirit** liberates others.”
Then we, full of faith and power, can say the words of Jesus in Luke 4, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim this is the year of the Lord’s favor”

THE REALITY OF SMALL

1. Small is the size of **everything else in comparison to our God**