

**James 5:16b-18**  
Productive Prayer

*Ask God ...*

I. A People of Prayer

- A. The Righteous
- B. The Prophet
- C. And the Likes of Us

II. The Power of Prayer

- A. Our Mighty God
- B. The Holy Trinity
- C. Hears and Answers

III. The Practice of Prayer

- A. Stating the Obvious
- B. Doing the Obvious
- C. Trusting and Watching

*... in faith*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. What is prayer?
2. Who can pray?
3. Does God always hear the prayers of His Children?
4. Why is prayer powerful?
5. Elijah was a man of prayer. Why is it important to know that he was a person just like us?

**Big Needs, Small Seeds, and the Power of God**

Jesus never said: "If you have faith like a mountain, you can move a mustard seed?" Yet, oddly enough, that is the way Christians sometimes think prayer works. We turn the truth Jesus spoke entirely on its head and convince ourselves that it is only BIG FAITH that gets BIG ANSWERS. Jesus teaches the very opposite. He likens powerful prayer to the teeniest seed ... but that seed, small as it may be is real faith nonetheless. The power of prayer does not depend on the bigness of our faith, but the greatness of our God! We certainly want solid, strong, firmly founded faith, but God's work does not depend on our degree of faith, or faith rests in the knowledge of His infinite power and wisdom. James gives us shocker along those very lines: Elijah was like us - he had faith like us, and has the same God as we do. I can only venture to say that Elijah grasped his smallness as a man and that he would describe his faith as "small as a mustard seed." But, I can say for certain that when that mere man turned in faith to our Mighty God responded according to His promises, power, and wisdom. We are small, needy creatures with sometimes very weak faith, but our God is a God Who hears and answers our prayers.