

Session 3: Persistence Matters

*“By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And **your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies**, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”*

Genesis 22:16-18

Victory occurs at the _____.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12

A Look at Some Faithful Gatekeepers

Elijah: 1 Kings 17:1; 1 Kings 18:1, 41-46

God instructs us to pray like Elijah.

James 5:16-18 ...*The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷ **Elijah was a man with a nature like ours**, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.*

Our prayers have great _____ because of our _____ nature.

Lesson from Elijah: We need to _____ praying until we _____.

Daniel: Daniel 9:2-3, 20-23; Daniel 10:1-14

When God hears our prayers, He responds _____ **Daniel 9:21, 10:12**

_____ forces diligently fight to _____ God's work here. **Daniel 10:13**

Victory is only guaranteed if we _____ in the battle. **Daniel 10:3, 13**

John 11:1-6

Sometimes _____ compels God to delay. (**Verses 5-6, Verse 15**)

Delay _____ our faith.

Jesus will stretch our faith to expand its _____.

- Limited faith will yield limited _____.

Sometimes delays don't change our _____, but they change _____.