



Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati  
405 West Seventh Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45203  
(513) 381-3858  
[www.union-baptist.net](http://www.union-baptist.net)  
Rev. Dr. Orlando Yates, Pastor

## SPIRITUAL PERSISTENCE

***“Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink,  
for there is the sound of a rainstorm.”***

***1 Kings 18:41 (HCSB)***

**Success can distract you as you seek to follow God’s will.** Elijah’s primary assignment was to announce when a drought would begin and end (1 Kings 17:11). **God had told him to proclaim to King Ahab that the drought was an act of judgment upon a people who worshiped idols rather than God.** In the middle of Elijah’s assignment, a spectacular thing happened. Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal and called fire down from heaven, putting hundreds of priests of Baal to death. **This was one of the most awesome displays of God’s power recorded in Scripture.** Elijah could easily have focused strictly on that event. Fire falling from heaven is much more spectacular than a rainstorm!

**When something spectacular happens, we can easily be sidetracked.** If Elijah lived today, he might have begun a “Calling Down Fire from Heaven” ministry! The dramatic is far more appealing to us than obedience to the mundane. Destroying hundreds of Baal’s prophets would appear to be a climactic victory for any prophet of God. **Yet Elijah persisted in his assignment.** He announced the coming rain. This had been his primary message, and he delivered it.

**If you aren’t careful, you may become so distracted by the successes you experience that you never complete what God originally assigned you to do. Will your success today cause you to disobey tomorrow? AMEN.**

Drs. Henry and Richard Blackaby

*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20*

