

Ronald L. Dart Ministries



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NEWSLETTER

May 2018

Speaking in Tongues

By Ronald L. Dart

It must have been a hair-raising experience. It is certain that whatever the disciples expected, the events of this day took them completely by surprise. They had never successfully anticipated anything Jesus did, and that first Pentecost was no exception. They knew he said they would receive power from on high. But nothing had prepared them for what really happened on that day.

They had waited at Jerusalem as Jesus had said, and while they waited, they took care of some unfinished business. They had to select a successor to Judas. Seven weeks after the resurrection, when the feast of Pentecost rolled around, they were still waiting at Jerusalem for whatever was to happen.

You can find the story in the second chapter of Acts. The disciples had gathered on the feast day as they had all their lives. The feast of Pentecost celebrated the completion of the great harvest that had started seven weeks before on the day of the wave sheaf offering (Leviticus 23:9-21). They were observing the feast of Pentecost (Acts 2:1).

Suddenly, the room was filled with a roar that seemed to come from the sky—it was the sound of a “rushing mighty wind.” By all accounts, a tornado sounds like a train coming through the windows of the house. The house was filled with the sound.

Then, as if that were not enough to frighten them out of their wits, a stream of fire entered the room, separated into “tongues” of fire, spread across the ceiling and then descended on each of them. These were not “cloven tongues” as the King James Bible describes them, but “distributed” streams of fire. The only place to go for a reference point is science fiction and movie special effects. Nothing like this was seen before or since.

Then, according to Luke, “They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues,

as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:4). By now, we ought to realize that this is something very different from the “speaking in tongues” practiced in some Pentecostal and charismatic churches. They were not seeking this gift—they had no idea that it even existed. They experienced external manifestations of the presence of great power—a roaring sound and visible flames of fire. No charismatic church has ever duplicated that.

But, believe it or not, there is an even more important distinction. The disciples did not start speaking in “unknown tongues.” It was not gibberish coming from their lips, or the “tongues of angels.” It was known languages.

This was the feast of Pentecost, one of the three great “pilgrimage” festivals, when Jews from all over the world made the trip to Jerusalem to worship. Hence, there were present in the city at that time, Jews who had been born in other lands and spoke other tongues—other languages. As word of the miracle spread, and as men began to gather, they were astonished to realize that they were hearing a message in their native language. What astonished them was that the men who

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The Gift of Evangelism

By Ronald L. Dart

Is *everyone* an evangelist? Plainly not, but sometimes one wonders. It seems so many feel they know how the job of an evangelist should be done, and who should do it. And yet when we study the New Testament, we find very few evangelists, and those we find are all in the ministry.

Oh, to be sure, every individual disciple is an evangelist in the sense of his personal witness. All of us have a responsibility to let our light shine in a dark world and to be ready to give an answer of the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15). While I have called this “personal evangelism,” it is not evangelism in the way Paul uses the word. To him, an evangelist is a man specially gifted of God to proclaim the good news. Philip, one of the first men ordained by the apostles, took the Gospel to Samaria and is later called “Philip the evangelist.” Timothy was also an evangelist. Paul urged him to, “Watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, *do the work of an evangelist*, make full proof of thy ministry” (2 Timothy 4:5).

Evangelism is a work, a ministry, and a gift. Paul speaks of it as a gift God gives to some and not to others. To the Ephesians, he wrote, “And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers. . .” (Ephesians 4:11). Plainly, pastors and other ministers were not necessarily evangelists.

Who decided who was to be an evangelist? The question hardly needs asking. The very first evangelists were the twelve apostles, and Jesus himself selected the twelve after spending the night in prayer. When the time came to replace Judas, the remaining apostles found two men who met the necessary requirements (perhaps the only two, because the requirements were quite narrow: Acts 1:21, 22). They then appealed to God to show which of the two *he* had chosen.

Who decides about the other offices in the church? There is a vital truth here that is too often overlooked: *The offices and works of the church are based on spiritual gifts, and God alone decides who will receive a spiritual gift.*

“For to one,” we are told, “is given by the spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same spirit; to another faith by the same spirit. . . But all these worketh that one and the selfsame spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will” (1 Corinthians 12:7-11).

Paul’s subject in this chapter is spiritual gifts, and his theme is that the diversity and the distribution of these

gifts is in the hand of God and carried out according to his will. Unity in the church comes, not from everyone trying to do the same job, but from each doing his own job—and all these jobs are divine appointments: “And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, help, governments, diversities of tongues” (1 Corinthians 12:28).

It follows that no one sets himself in these positions. No one takes them to himself. Nor can all of us together legitimately set someone in one of these offices. How could we politically elect someone to an office that depends on spiritual gifts and divine appointment?

This is nowhere more true than in the responsibility of an evangelist. Nevertheless, the itch to evangelize seems to be in all of us.

Paul asks a simple question: “Are all apostles? Are all prophets: are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing?” Of course not.

It is not that it is bad to desire to do some of these things—Paul says to “covet earnestly the best gifts.” The problem arises when we ignore our real gifts and our real calling because we covet something else. If the itch to evangelize leads to a neglect of the gifts of love, help, service, and faith, the church is not well served.

Spiritual gifts are given with a purpose: “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine. . . But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him all things which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:13-16).

There is something to be supplied by every member for the building of the church, and what each member supplies is different. It requires no stretch of the imagination to see what happens if everyone aspires to

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were speaking were Galileans—men they could not expect to know foreign languages.

So far from being unknown tongues spoken on that day, the languages are even named: “And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues [languages] the wonderful works of God.” Some 16 distinct languages were heard on that day, being spoken by men who had never learned them.

There is one more important observation to make. Not only were the languages recognizable, so was the message. Each man there heard, in his own language, “the wonderful works of God.” In fact, this was the whole point of the miracle. This was no mere show of power, no divine “seal of approval.” This was a tool to do a job, and the tool even helped define the job. The miraculous gift of a foreign language meant that the Gospel was to go to people who spoke that language.

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Jesus had already defined the job: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Matthew 28:19). Christianity was not to be just another Jewish sect. It would not be limited to Judea or Jews.

At first, the disciples did not seem to understand this. Even after receiving a gift of at least 16 languages,

they seemed to see no need to go where those languages were spoken. It finally took persecution to get them to move out of Jerusalem with the Gospel. Even then, Peter did not go. It took a vision to get him to go preach to a gentile, and a miracle to get him to baptize the man (Acts 10).

The book of Acts is the story of what it took for the message of the God of Israel to break out into the rest of the world. The gift of tongues was the first miracle given to the young church. It may have been the most significant miracle they would ever see. For more information on this topic request your *FREE* copy of Ronald L. Dart’s message, *About Speaking In Tongues*.

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the same job. Can you imagine a house built, from the ground up, solely by plumbers? Neither can you imagine a church built solely by evangelists.

A church is built by evangelism, pastoral care, loving fellowship, help for the poor, care for the sick, sound Bible teaching, education, and the fulfilling of the great commission. Don’t let the itch to evangelize cause you to overlook your gifts and your own unique responsibility in the building of the church. Would you like to know more about spiritual gifts? If so, request the *FREE* Bible study on *Spiritual Gifts*.

Every Little Bit Counts

Are you an Amazon customer? Do you know about www.smile.amazon.com? It is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Christian Educational Ministries is registered with them. You will see eligible products marked “Eligible for AmazonSmile donation” on their product detail pages on smile.amazon.com. Check this out. This might be a way to work together and help make a difference with *Born to Win*.

Have You Made Your Plans Yet?

Join Us For A Family Feast of Worship, Fun, and Joy at Kentucky Lake! We invite you to join us, as plans are underway and brethren from different congregations are joining us in celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles on beautiful Kentucky Lake beginning September 24th. The joy, fun, inspiration, and fellowship our cooperative festival site promotes, continues to bring together a people scattered abroad to an uplifting atmosphere of inspiration to nourish the bonds of love and friendship among all in God's family.

This Cooperative Festival Site is co-hosted by The Church of God International, and Christian Educational Ministries. We are joined in fellowship with members of the United Church of God and various Independent Churches of God. It will be held at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park in Western Kentucky and is a convenient location for many who live in the Central U.S.

This site is in the midst of a beautiful state park and far from the hustle and bustle of the big city. Smack-dab on the shores of Kentucky Lake in the midst of the Pennyrile Forest, a spectacular array of fall colors awaits you in the midst of a serene natural setting that speaks to the glory of God's handiwork.

Accommodations and Lodging at the Park or in the area feature everything for nearly every budget. From camping to condominiums and executive cottages to motels—this area has it all, conveniently located close to the convention center.

Fellowship opportunities are endless. The Convention Center is available to us almost anytime and will host an abundant array of fellowship events, from uplifting and inspiring worship services, to hysterical and fun family games, and discerning and informative seminars that engender spiritual discussions that can go on right up until sunrise!

Family recreation attractions are within minutes of our worship services auditorium. These attractions

include an 18-hole golf course resort, hiking, laser tag, zip lines, go carts, mini-golf, Civil War site, a buffalo ranch, a country music show, horseback riding, fishing, golfing, The Kentucky Opry, the famous Paducah Quilt Museum, Railroad Museum, and much more.

Our Family & Friends Cooperative Feast will feature one of the best spreads for your spiritual banquet table with a variety of studies, seminars, and learning opportunities for our children and youth as well as adults that appeal to many different biblical interests. Worship and fellowship will sharpen your iron in a beautiful nature setting amidst the warm love, hospitality, laughter, and enjoyment that comes when God's people get together at his appointed times to worship and rejoice before him! For more information please visit our website:

www.lblfeastoftabernacles.wordpress.com

or join our Facebook group:

www.facebook.com/groups/1663469403944776/.



Radio News

- We are currently evaluating radio stations in several markets—two stations in Tennessee, one in Georgia, one that covers Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, and Eastern Indiana, and a couple of other small stations. Please pray for wisdom and insight so that we can negotiate equitable contracts with those stations we choose.
- Did you know you can find our current radio stations on the *Born to Win* website? Just enter www.borntowin.net/radio-stations/.

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That the man of God may be proficient and equipped for every good work.

CEM Mission Statement

Christian Educational Ministries (CEM) was founded in November 1995 by Ron and Allie Dart as an independent, non-denominational ministry to serve the public and individual Christians of every kind through the ministry of Ronald L. Dart. Mr. Dart, an ordained minister and evangelist, has served God through hundreds of sermons, broadcasts, Bible Studies, and books—bringing clarity and simplicity to topics.

CEM promotes Ron Dart's radio ministry, *Born to Win*, which is heard from coast-to-coast. His clear, conversational, and inviting style can be heard the world over. The *Born to Win* website, www.borntowin.net, features more than 1000 of Mr. Dart's timeless sermons and studies at any one time.

Our mission is:

- First, to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. (Matthew 28).
- Second, to teach the disciples of Jesus Christ so that they may be “proficient and equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:17).
- Third, to teach and train this generation and the next with studies and programs focused on youth, through the Dart's special passion, Youth Educational Adventures (YEA). (Deuteronomy 11:19, Proverbs 22:6).
- Fourth, to bring God's people closer together, through cooperative efforts wherever they may be. (2 Corinthians 5:18).

To this end, we teach the Bible and its Truth, with a goal of helping people make their own lives work while they are a positive influence and blessing to those around them. Follow Mr. Dart and CEM at www.borntowin.net, Facebook, YouTube, and other media.

June Scripture Writing Plan

We encourage you to read each day's scripture and then write it down in a notebook, a journal, on index cards, in a text message or whatever method you know works best for you. If you can't write it down, consider speaking the scripture and recording it on your cell phone or voice recorder. Our goal is to have read and written down a minimum of 365 scriptures by the end of 2018. Let's do this and see the value it brings to our lives.



June 1	Numbers 6:24-26	June 11	Jude 1:2	June 21	Proverbs 20:3
June 2	John 16:33	June 12	Ephesians 4:3	June 22	Psalms 119:165
June 3	Matthew 5:9	June 13	Philippians 4:6-7	June 23	Romans 8:6
June 4	John 14:27	June 14	2 Thessalonians 3:16	June 24	Psalms 46:10
June 5	1 Peter 3:10-11	June 15	Hebrews 12:14	June 25	Luke 2:14
June 6	Psalms 4:8	June 16	Psalms 34:14	June 26	Psalms 29:11
June 7	Colossians 3:13-15	June 17	James 3:17	June 27	Proverbs 3:1-2
June 8	James 3:18	June 18	Philippians 4:9	June 28	2 Corinthians 13:11
June 9	Isaiah 26:3	June 19	Hebrews 12:11	June 29	Proverbs 12:20
June 10	Proverbs 16:32	June 20	Isaiah 52:7	June 30	Hebrews 13:20-21

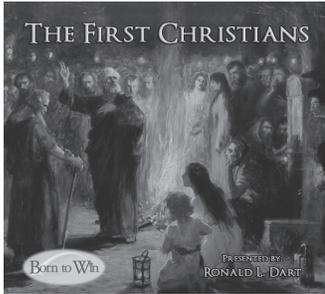
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Born to Win

A Ronald L. Dart Ministry

The First Christians CD Series



The first Christians—Christians who were alive and active when the various books of the New Testament were being written. That puts them all in the first century and mostly before the fall of Jerusalem. What did they believe? How did they practice their faith? When and how did they assemble? What were their thoughts on heaven, the last days, and the new covenant? Was Christianity just a Jewish sect? Ron Dart takes us through the impressive body of writings we have by and for these folks and shows us from these writings, what their experiences were, and what they thought about them. This new CD series contains 18 messages and is offered for the first time for \$18.95—order yours today.

About Speaking in Tongues FREE

What did the first Christians believe about speaking in tongues? It is risky assuming we know what people think, so Ronald L. Dart takes us to the first instance of speaking in tongues recorded in the Bible. He does not argue a case for what 21st-century Christians should practice, but gives us insight into whether or not we do differ from what the first Christians believed and practiced.

The Next Pentecost FREE

The gift of tongues on Pentecost resulted in a discernible, understandable gospel message. If God came for our next Pentecost what miracle would he perform for us? Would he find us doing a good job of sharing that message? Where are we lacking? How important is our personal integrity when sharing the gospel? What about our personal relationship with God? Ron Dart shares the admonitions for the church from Revelation 2-3 and Ephesians 4. He also gives us tips for building our faith so we can share it with others.

Thank you for supporting this ministry with your prayers and generous donations.

We appreciate you and all that you do to help us share God's Word to those who are called to hear.

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