

# Ronald L. Dart Ministries



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NEWSLETTER

November 2018

## Thanks from the Heart

By Ronald L. Dart

Are you a grateful person? Do you give thanks often? When you do give thanks, is it from the heart? In the eighth chapter of Deuteronomy, there is a long admonition of God, that he inspired Moses to give to the children of Israel near the end of his life. I am going to take you through this eighth chapter.

Let's begin in verse 1: "All the commandments which I command you this day shall you observe to do, that you may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD swore and promised to your fathers. And you shall remember all the ways which the LORD your God led you these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, and to prove you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments, or not. And he humbled you, and permitted you to get hungry, and fed you with manna, which you didn't know, neither did your fathers know. . . ." (Deuteronomy 8:1-3).

### Tiny Miracles

He goes on to talk about the experience these people had in the wilderness. Continuing in verse 4: "Your raiment did not grow old upon you, neither did thy foot swell for forty years." I can imagine people, after several years, thinking: "How old is this garment? How long have I been wearing this? Why hasn't it worn out?" And then they realize that there had been a tiny miracle in their life that made a statement that God was with them.

Those little miracles are going on in our lives all the time. How long would it take to realize there has been a miracle in your life? No matter how much God allows you to suffer, even to go hungry, he is doing it so that you may become thankful, so that you can learn what real gratitude is. "You should keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a

good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper" (vv. 6-9). You should have been able to really live the good life.

He says: "When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you" (v. 10). What does that mean—bless God? Obviously, it means to thank God for it. When the good times really have meaning in contrast to the hard times, and you begin to understand that, you can say: "Thank God that I am here. Thank God that I am full and not starving. Thank God that I am clothed and not naked. I am not here because I deserve it. I am not here because I am a better person than anyone else. I am here because of the blessing of the Lord my God.

Then he says: "Beware that you don't forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today" (v. 11). We need to be really careful about that.

*continued on page 3 . . .*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Thanks from the Heart	Ronald L. Dart	1
Are You Worried?		2
Radio Update - Feast in Benin Republic		4
Feedback from the LBL Feast Site		4

# Are You Worried?

By Jessica Voyce Lewis

Anxiety disorders are the most common mental problems in the U.S., the most common reason people seek out psychiatric help. Many are more vulnerable to worry and anxiety during holidays such as Thanksgiving when families and friends get together.

When people worry, blood pressure and heart rate rise. Worry can lead to sleepless nights, overall irritability, or worse! Thomas Jefferson once said, “How much pain they have cost us, the evils which have never happened.” It is one thing to lament over something that has transpired but to tie yourself into emotional knots over a future that is uncertain is to solidify an unhappy today.

Jesus speaks of worry in Luke 12:16-34. He tells of a rich man who needed a place to store his grain. He made great plans to tear down his barns and build new ones. He thought how he would celebrate and be merry once his task was complete since he had laid up enough goods to last him years. God came to him and called him a fool, for he was going to die that night, meaning all his planning was for nothing! Jesus then explained to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes” (vv. 22-23 NIV). He told them to look at God’s creation. The birds of the air and the flowers of the field are provided for, and we are of much more worth than they! He said to them, “And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well” (vv. 29-31 NIV). Jesus instructed that they should not focus on their earthly possessions but instead lay up treasures in heaven.

Worry has many names and comes in many forms: anxiety, apprehension, concern, distress, fear, perplexity, uncertainty, uneasiness, and vexation. To *worry* is “to torment oneself with or suffer from disturbing thoughts.” Notice the word “torment”. Who is being tormented and who is the tormentor? They are the same person—you! When you think of “torment,” you likely picture great pain and suffering, even torture. Is it from some outside force? No, it is a self-inflicted torture that far too many people subscribe to.

Why do we worry? Would you really want to control your future? Do you think you could truly judge what is best without knowing all that is possible? So, if we don’t truly want to control our future, we are left with the

problem of who gets control. We know from the Bible that God is the One who is ultimately in control. It is when we try to take over that we find reason to worry. What will happen if things don’t go as I planned? What if I lose the people I depend on? What if I get injured? What if I don’t make enough money? All these questions swirl in the heads of those focused on and trying to hold on to their earthly future.

Is this our home? Revelation 21:1 tells us the first heaven and first earth are temporary. Though we make our home here now, it will pass away. The same will happen to all we store up for ourselves here. That is why Jesus told us to lay up treasures in heaven. We don’t have to worry about thieves breaking into heaven and stealing all evidence of the works we did for God. When we relinquish pseudo-control of possessions and our situation in life, God empowers us to do even greater works, knowing that we will do them in his name and not ours. Acting under our own name leaves us as the object of praise when we succeed, and that of scorn when we fail. We find ourselves under immense pressure to prevail. We begin to worry about the outcome. Does God want us to succeed? When we work within his will, God supports and guides us. When we walk according to our own selfish design, why should God help us get what we want? Would you rather struggle your way through life’s decisions or have the guidance of One who is beyond the corporeal, is not confined by the temporal, and has unlimited knowledge?

That is the choice that we inevitably must make. Do we attempt to maintain control over our lives or place them in better hands?

Time spent worrying could be dedicated to prayer or carrying out God’s commands for the furtherance of his work. An unknown author wrote, “Blessed is the person who is too busy to worry in the daytime and too sleepy to worry at night.” This could not be more correct! Worry is the product of an idle mind and body. Proverbs 24:27-34 says what will happen to those who let laziness gain a foothold in their life. By wasting time worrying instead of working, you are solidifying the very fate you worried about! Instead let us dedicate ourselves to God’s work and way of life, and leave tomorrow where it is, in his hands. Allow God to lift the burden from your shoulders, and follow the biblical advice in Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (NIV).

*Thanks from the Heart  
continued from page 1 . . .*

One of the ways in which you can show gratitude toward God is in the way you live your life. It is an ungrateful wretch, is it not, to have received all of the bounty and goodness of God and then dishonor his father and his mother? What ungrateful wretch, having received the outpouring of the bounty of God's hand, would lie, cheat, steal, commit adultery, and trample all over God's Ten Commandments?

### **Are You Grateful?**

Do you want to know if you are a grateful person or not? One of the ways is how you actually live your life in relation to God. He warns: "Lest; when you have eaten and are full, and you have built beautiful houses and you are living in them; and when your herds and your flocks have multiplied, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied" (vv. 12-13). You check your financial statement and it all looks nice and flush. You have a house built, and you are going to have an income from the investments that you made for the rest of your life; you are comfortable.

Verse 14: "When your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt." It equates two things. One is being grateful; the other is having your heart lifted up. What does it mean to say your heart is lifted up? It means vanity, pride, ego—the swelling up of the self. What this tells me is that the ungrateful heart is a proud heart.

He explains that you forget God: "Who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and drought and where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know." Why did he do all these things? "That He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end" (vv. 15-16).

If you haven't marked that verse in your Bible, you should probably do so, because there will be many occasions when your life is not going to work right—when things come unstuck—and you say to yourself, "I've tried to be obedient to God. I know that I am a weak person but I am not any worse than anybody else. I have tried to be obedient and have done the things that God commands." So you ask why your life is not

working. The answer could be right there. God allows you to suffer sometimes, to go hungry, and to live in hardship that he might humble you, but he humbles you with a point.

The point is that he can do you good at your latter end—he has the long view in mind. The context of this is easy to lose; he says that when all of this has happened and life is really working, but your heart gets lifted up then: "You say in your heart, My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth" (v. 17).

Wait a minute—where does your hand get the power to get wealth? It comes from God. "You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day" (v. 18).

### **Don't Forget God**

"Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God" (vv. 19-20). *If you . . . forget the LORD your God*—those are frightening words. It is not so much that you are not thinking about God every moment, because you *do* have to pay attention to what you are doing. That is not what I mean. There are times when the knowledge of God would call for one course of action from you, and forgetting God would lead you to another course of action. I don't think that any of us can get through a day without that happening. He warns us, if you forget him at all, he is going to forsake you.

### **How Little We Deserve**

I think the truth is: we are most grateful when we know best how little we deserve. When does that come? It usually comes when we are in trouble—when things aren't working, when we are sick, when we are in pain. Whenever something bad happens in our families or our lives, we really begin to examine ourselves and realize that we don't deserve anything—that is the moment in time when we are positioned and prepared to be most grateful. It shouldn't be such a terrible surprise that God would humble us so that he might do us good at the latter end.

## Blessings and Curses

A sobering passage in Deuteronomy 28 deals with blessings and curses. There are blessings if we obey God and there are curses from disobeying God. In verse 45 there is this short passage: “Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed.” Why would that happen? “Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you. These curses shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever.” Why? “Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things” (vv. 46-47).

We should serve God with joy of heart—an expression of gratitude in itself—for the abundance that he has given us. Someday, God may say, “I demanded very little of you. I gave you so much, and there was no appreciation.” He says: “Because of that you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in want of everything” (v. 48). Because you didn’t serve him with joy for the abundance of all things, you will serve your enemy in grief because of the want of all things, until he has destroyed you.

## Gratitude and Thankfulness

There is a song in our hymnal titled, *A Love That Will Not Let Me Go*—a love that may mean suffering, it may mean pain. It does not mean that God is getting even with you for things you have done to him. It doesn’t mean that he is hurting you because you have sinned against him. Your sins are gone. The things he is teaching you are about gratitude and thankfulness—learning humility that is expressed in gratitude. Learning what hunger is like so that you can be grateful when you are full; so that, when you are full, you will not forget God and turn your back on him. He has his hand on you, because he wants to make you into something that you aren’t yet. And that is one of the greatest truths that I could ever tell anyone.

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

# Radio Update

## FEAST IN BENIN REPUBLIC

I hope you all enjoyed your Feast of Tabernacles and you were all as blessed as we were here. There were 45 *Born to Win* radio listeners in attendance this Feast. Five people from Togo Republic, five from Nigeria, and the rest from Benin.

We ran the *Christian Holidays* series on the radio here for two weeks and the responses were very encouraging. Please continue to pray for this radio outreach and that God will bless those who have made this happen.

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## Feedback from the LBL Feast Site

- You really have to experience this Feast site in order to describe it. God’s spirit just permeates it. Healing only begins when we set our differences aside and we truly love on one another. We have way more in common than what we differ on. We need each other “as we see the day approaching.”
- Feast reflection. So much worship. So many smiles. So much concern for each other. The result. . . This year we “Rejoiced” with those. . . who loved to be with people who loved to be with God.
- Great Pictures! Great People! Great Feast!!! Thank you EVERYONE for making the Feast so special!
- This is my third year at this Feast site, and it gets better every year. The activities and luncheons are fun and enjoyable, but the best part is fellowshiping with the people. I love the people here. Thank you all very much for everything.
- This Feast site just keeps getting better each year. I enjoyed serving. The music was fantastic. Thanks for all the organizers did to make this a great Feast—God Bless You.
- I so enjoyed the “everyone is welcome” environment created at this Feast site
- We very much enjoyed the spirit of fellowship and oneness at this site, as we did last year. What CGI in co-operation with UCG and CEM has done here is priceless. This type of Feast site should be replicated in several places. We had the opportunity to meet several new people and expand our outlook on several spiritual areas.

# Self-Control: Theme of December Scripture Writing Plan



So far this year we have written scriptures about God, faith, hope, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness and thankfulness. We will wrap this year's program up with scriptures focused on self control. 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.

Dec 1	Proverbs 13:3	Dec 11	Romans 12:1-2	Dec 21	2 Timothy 1:7
Dec 2	Proverbs 16:32	Dec 12	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Dec 22	1 Timothy 3:2
Dec 3	Proverbs 18:21	Dec 13	1 Corinthians 7:5, 9	Dec 23	Titus 1:7-9
Dec 4	Proverbs 21:23	Dec 14	1 Corinthians 9:24-27	Dec 24	Titus 2
Dec 5	Proverbs 25:28	Dec 15	1 Corinthians 10:13	Dec 25	James 1:19-21
Dec 6	Psalms 141:3	Dec 16	Ephesians 6:10-20	Dec 26	James 3
Dec 7	Jeremiah 14:10	Dec 17	Philippians 4:8-9	Dec 27	1 Peter 1:13
Dec 8	Luke 6:27-29	Dec 18	Philippians 4:13	Dec 28	1 Peter 5:6-8
Dec 9	Acts 24:25	Dec 19	1 Thessalonians 4:3-7	Dec 29	2 Peter 1:3-11
Dec 10	Romans 6:12	Dec 20	1 Thessalonians 5:6	Dec 30	2 Peter 1:5-9
				Dec 31	Revelation 21:7

## 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](http://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](http://www.borntowin.net), Facebook, YouTube, and other media.

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## Thanks from the Heart **FREE** CD

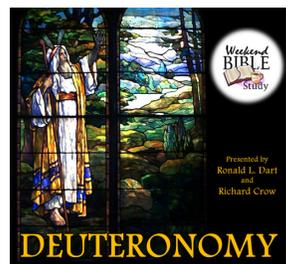
Are we thankful? Are we truly grateful? How can I know if I am truly thankful? How can I show gratitude other than just saying thank-you? What should I be thankful for—My talent? My skills? My life? Who should I thank? We are most grateful when we are most in need, so when we have plenty we sometimes struggle with thankfulness. If we are down, might it be because God is trying to teach us gratitude? This is a timely message filled with Ron Dart's wisdom and insight. Order your free copy today.

## A Spiritual Treatment for Depression & Age of Depression **FREE** CD

The message, *A Spiritual Treatment for Depression*, is a discussion of Psalms 42 & 43 and: terminal illness; abortion, depression, hope, and openness with God. Seek God aggressively, solve depression by doing so. Prayers (yours and other's) are answered (or not) by our actions. Often we are called on to suffer with Jesus, then rebound with hope. No matter how bad they look, all things work for good for those called.

*The Age of Depression* radio broadcast reviews the terrible increase in incidents of depression and pessimism among young people today. What are your chances of suffering depression? In this *Born to Win* program, you will discover two factors contributing to the epidemic of depression and how you can avoid it.

## Deuteronomy - CD Album



**Deuteronomy** — Deuteronomy is the English title that comes from the Greek word, *deuteronomion*, meaning second law. The Jewish name is, *Debarim*, which means “words” and comes from the first verse: “These are the words...” Whose words? Moses’. In this book Moses instructs the Israelites on how to choose God, how to apply God’s Law in their lives and live as God’s people. This study reviews Moses’ application of the Law to real life circumstances and reviews the blessings of the tribes and how we can choose a life of blessings. There are 18 studies on ten CDs. Ronald L. Dart does the first 11 studies. Richard Crow completes the series with lessons 12 through 18. Regular price is \$46.95. Order yours today, for only \$19.95.

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