

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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HOW CAN YOU BE SO HAPPY?

A new law was recently passed in Israel saying Hebrew-Christians must now be called simply Christians. Some of my so-called friends congratulated me saying, "You must be happy now that you are no longer a Jew, but only a Christian."

Others asked, "What are you doing in Israel? You are not a Jew now, but a Christian."

I told them, "I was born a Jew and am living in the Promised Land. But I did not become a good Jew until I received the Lord Jesus as my Savior. It is not enough to call yourself a Jew. You must follow in His steps."

"In whose steps?" they asked.

I replied, "In the steps of the Lord. He does not say, 'This one is a Jew, and this one is a Christian. This one is rich, and this one is poor.' All those who belong to Him belong to one family—the family of God."

I explained that, although they have more earthly property than I, my family is happier than they, and we have a great property waiting for us in heaven.

Then one man said, "I want to show you what I have!" Although he looked sad, he did not understand how I could be happier than he with all of his possessions, so he invited me to his home.

He had a very large house, but his two sons looked just as sad as he. I felt so sorry for this man. Everything seemed so empty.

He finally asked, "What do you think of my house?"

"It is nice," I replied, "but you are poor."

He could not believe his ears. "How can you say that?" he asked.

I told him, "Because you have no happiness in your home. Therefore, you really have nothing at all."

"Do you think you have more?" he demanded.

"Oh yes," I said, "because I have the Lord in my heart, and in Him I have great possessions."

"You speak like a crazy man!" he told me.

I then asked, "Do you have time to come to my home? Of course, I do not have the nice things you have, but the light of the Lord is there."

He and his two sons then accompanied me to my home. My children played music and sang for them, and my wife, Naomi, provided fine hospitality. He remarked, "Now I see what you mean, but how can you be so happy?"

"Because it is written, 'whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he'" (Prov. 16:20).

"I want that," he said, "but we are Jewish and you are Christians."

I told him, "Who we are makes no difference. The important thing is that we have one God and one law. You can read the Bible for yourself and

learn of the one about whom it is written.”

By this time, his boys said they wanted to stay with us, and he could see how happy they were. He confided, “I am ashamed to say this, but I am jealous of you. I now know that I am poor, and you are rich. I am ready to give everything to be as happy as you.”

I told him, “Such happiness can be yours right now, and you can tell your family you have put your trust in the Lord. It is written, ‘Come, take up the cross, and follow Me’ [Mk. 10:21]. Everyone who chooses to follow Him is happy.”

“How did you come to believe in Him?” he asked. I was delighted to share my testimony.

Then he said, “I want to be happy like you, but I do not have the courage.”

“Of course you have,” I told him. “Just open your heart to Him. I will leave you alone for a while to think.” When I came back, he was smiling. The light had come to him and had given him true happiness.