

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

<https://www.foi.org/zvikalisher/>

I CAN SPEAK TO YOU AS FRIENDS

Israel is constantly being attacked by blood-thirsty people who seek to annihilate us. But no power on Earth can stand against God. The Lord knows the nations' hatred against Israel, and He watches over us. As a nation, we are only strong because of His love for us.

Recently, I was stationed in Samaria in the army. One day, we went to a restaurant in Shechem, and inside were several Arabs. When they began to say things against us, I responded in Arabic, "As long as you continue to follow after darkness, you will remain blind. Having Russia on your side will not help you. You are not strong enough to fight this battle."

"Oh yes, we are very strong," one replied.

Soon more Arabs entered the restaurant, all likewise confident in themselves. I said, "You can see how many people you have and how many we have. This fact alone should show you how weak you are."

One replied, "That does not make sense. We have so many people, and you have so few."

I answered, "We are small in quantity, but we are great in quality. Your past experiences in wars against us should prove that to you."

"What is your secret?" one asked.

I replied, "As a soldier, I cannot disclose military secrets, but as a believer I can tell you the secret is to fear God and follow only Him. Then you will no longer hate Israel."

One answered, "We pray five times a day. Is this not enough?"

"No," I answered. "If you pray only once a day but your prayer is sincere, and you pray for love and forgiveness of your sins, then you will change your minds about Israel."

Another replied, "We pray to Allah and to his prophet, Muhammad."

I said, "There is only one God. We do not pray to our prophets. They are no longer alive, and they cannot help us. We must open our hearts to God. He is merciful and ready to help us when we pray to Him."

I opened my Bible and read—first in Hebrew to the Israeli soldiers, and then in Arabic. The Arabs were surprised, but then they realized I believe in the Lord Jesus as my Savior. When they understood this, our conversation changed, and they and the Israeli soldiers wanted to know how I had come to believe in the Lord.

I explained, "I was not born a soldier. I was born as a human being—as all of us were—a creature of God. Today I am a soldier; tomorrow I will be a private citizen again. But even as soldiers, we are not made of iron. We need His help. Without Him, we can do nothing. This is why I lift up my eyes to the Lord in heaven. He has forgiven my sins, cleansed me through His blood, and wrote my name in the Book of Life. Because I have received Him as my Savior, I can speak to you as friends, even though you hate me. The Lord has taught us to love our enemies and to pray for them."

Most of the Arabs were Islamic, but two were Greek Orthodox. One of the

Greek Orthodox Arabs asked me, “If you believe in Jesus, why are you in the army?”

I replied, “You know what is written in Matthew 22:21. The Lord said, ‘Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’ I serve in the army because I am an Israeli citizen, and I serve the Lord because I belong to Him.”

After this, we had to leave the restaurant. I can truly say they were sorry to see me leave. I am happy I had the opportunity to tell them what the Lord can do for us and how He can make Arabs and Jewish people friends.