

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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IT IS POSSIBLE IF GOD WILLS IT

Many Orthodox Jews in my neighborhood, especially older people for whom I make home repairs, usually invite me to their simchot, which are family celebrations such as bar mitzvahs, weddings, and other religious observances. Although they know what I believe, and in spite of our many heated discussions about religion, they never forget me during their times of rejoicing.

A father recently invited me to his son's bar mitzvah. I attend bar mitzvahs and other religious festivals because they provide good opportunities to witness about the Lord. It is not easy to speak about Him because people do not want to listen, but He gives me courage and opens doors.

Shortly after the ceremony, an old man approached me. He knows me well because I have repaired many things for him, and we have spoken about Christ in his home. He greeted me and asked, "How can a cat come over the sea and not be wet?"

I understood his meaning and replied, "It is possible if God wills it. Such an incident happened when the Israelites crossed the Red Sea and came out dry. I too crossed a sea—literally and figuratively—and came out dry when I survived the Holocaust. This was God's will, so I might meet you and tell you about my faith in Christ. If you like, we can continue the conversation about Him that we began in your home."

"That would be good," he said. "I will gather some friends who will be

happy to join us.”

I asked the Lord to be with me, as He always is. The man soon returned with several friends—what he perceived as great power, but he did not have the power of the Holy Spirit as I did!

He asked, “Do you have a Bible with you?”

“Yes,” I replied, “I am ready to discuss it with you, but I want you to know I did not come to compete with you, to see who knows more about the Bible. You see, it is not enough to know about the Bible. The important thing is to believe it. You should know who your Savior is.”

One of the men said, “I suppose you mean your Jesus.”

I responded, “He is not my Savior only. The Bible says Jesus came from heaven to give Himself for the whole world.” These men became very agitated and angry. But I was happy the true subject of our discussion—Jesus Christ—was out in the open and that I could freely speak about my faith in Him.

Just then another old gentleman came over and asked what we were discussing. When I told him I believe Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, he said, “I am sorry that we—the Chosen People, who are to be examples to the world—are running away from that truth, which is taught in the Law of Moses.” He explained that although he was 84 years old and lacking in physical power, he was mighty in the power of the Lord.

The other men, who had been so sure of themselves, became as weak as flies. This man spoke at great length about his faith in the Lord, and he greatly inspired me. When he finished, I said, “!” (Be strong and blessed), the synagogue greeting for the worshiper asked to read the Law.

Meeting this dear man was another reminder that the Lord is everywhere. He told me, "I heard your conversation with them, and I received the courage to speak up about my faith in the Lord. I never did that before, and I do not know who gave me such strength."

"The Lord gave you strength," I told him.

I pray the Lord will continue to strengthen this dear saint and encourage many others here in Israel to speak out for Him. Then the prophecy will be fulfilled, "out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Isa. 2:3).