

# Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

## THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

As I walked down the street recently, some Orthodox men were handing out flyers telling people if they serve the rabbis well, then they, too, will become holy and go to heaven. As I passed, they handed me one. They looked at me intently as I read their leaflet. Then one asked, "What do you have to say about what is written here?"

"It is a great pity," I replied. "It is as King Solomon wrote: 'Vanity of vanities, all is vanity'" (Eccl. 1:2). Their faces showed their displeasure, and they wanted to know why I said such a thing. "Because I believe in Almighty God," I said. "You worship your rabbis. You accept what they say over what God says in His Word."

"We teach about the true faith!" one replied. They were surprised to see someone like me speak of faith. They dress in special clothes and keep their heads covered, thinking these outward things make them holy and closer to God. I do not do these things, so they do not consider me a person of faith.

"How can you speak against the faith?" one asked. "In which God do you believe?"

"How can you ask such a question?" I replied. "Deuteronomy 6:4 clearly states, 'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!' There is only one God. In which God have you believed? You follow your teachers and bow down before them."

Now they became suspicious. “Are you not from those who speak about This Man?” one asked.

“I am not like you,” I said. “I do not read fictional stories. You spend your life studying rabbinic commentaries. I read the Bible.”

We spoke for more than an hour. They were surprised I told them they were not following the right path. “How can you say we are not following God?” one asked. “We are very active for Him. Who is your God?”

“There is only one God,” I declared. “About Him it is clearly written in the Bible.” I told them they have been taught wrong because they study rabbinic writings instead of God’s Word.

“How can you say such a thing?” one asked. “Shame on you!”

“Okay,” I replied. “Please show me what you read.” So they showed me a stack of books written by rabbis.

I answered, “As it is written in Ecclesiastes 1:2: ‘Vanity!’ I believe according to the Bible.” Then I showed them Isaiah 53, where it is written,

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. When You make His soul an offering for sin, ... Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors (vv. 5–6, 8, 10, 12).

“We have never read this!” they proclaimed.

“This is part of the Holy Bible,” I said. “All of its chapters were written by the Holy Spirit, as was this chapter.”

They looked at each other with surprise. “We have learned much from you,” they said.

They need our prayers. Through prayer we can see God’s mighty power, and perhaps someday they will see it, too.