

# Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

## YOU ARE MY SERVANT ISRAEL

For many days I had been asking myself, How do I find people like me, who survived the Holocaust, so that I may bring them the gospel of Christ? Speaking to them about faith is not easy. They do not want to hear about the Bible. But as we say in Israel, "If God wills it, even a broom can shoot." Recently a friend came to my home to ask for my help. "Zvi," he said, "I know a 90-year-old man who is a Holocaust survivor and does not want to hear about the Lord. Would you please come and speak to him? He only wants to speak with people who have suffered as he did because they understand what he is going through."

"I am ready," I said. So I went to his home with my friend. We talked for quite a while and began to develop a friendship. I asked him how he dealt with all he endured during World War II, and I listened to his reply. Then he asked me the same question.

"In the beginning," I said, "it was very hard for me. But over time, I started to read the Holy Bible and grow closer to the Lord; and He gave me hope and the courage to go on living. During the Holocaust, I was jealous of those who died. I was 10 when the Nazis came through Poland, where I lived. I was separated from my family and have never seen them again. "When the war was over I came to Israel, and someone gave me a Bible. I read Psalm 27:10, where it is written, 'When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take care of me.' He gave me courage to live and even enabled me to encourage others who walked the same long road of suffering.

“And here I am today, no longer suffering, because I put my trust in the Lord.”

He had many questions, and I told him how I came to know the Lord personally. At the beginning of my visit, he was extremely distraught. But he paid great attention to everything I said, and in time I saw great joy appear over his face. Then I opened the Bible and began to read to him. He listened, and I could sense the Lord’s presence. I have spoken to other Holocaust survivors, and they all ask the same questions: “How can you speak about faith in God? You know what I have lived through! Where was God then?”

I asked him, “How old are you?”

“I am 90 years old,” he replied.

“And who gave you this long life if not God Himself? You could have died in Europe, but He brought you here and has taken care of you. So if you want to know where God was, look at yourself. He was with you the entire time so that you should come to know Him and tell others about Him.”

I showed him how God has blessed His Chosen People by giving us back the land He promised to us and to our descendants forever. When he asked me where such promises are written, I showed him Genesis 12:7; 13:14–17; 15:18; 17:8; and Exodus 23:31.

Then he asked, “Can you give me a Bible? I would like to read it.” I was waiting for him to ask.

“It is good for you to read,” I said. “You must read and also open your heart before the Lord. He will encourage you, as He did me. He gave me the courage to go on living. And here I am today, doing His will with much joy. Despite all we have gone through, God has not forsaken us. As it is

written, 'You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified'" (Isa. 49:3).