

continuous conversion

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It works. I'll tell you, it works.

One of the daily email offerings I subscribe to is called *Jewniverse*. Written in a humorous, casual tone, I believe it's meant to appeal to young people of Jewish heritage who may or may not be knowledgeable or observant about Judaism. I like it because it's brief, with 3-4 short articles built around a theme. Recently the theme was "Is there a God?" Famous people answered this question; here's one answer I like:

"It works.

I'll tell you, it works."

That's my theology in its essence. I'm really not interested in rational proofs, logical reasoning or historical evidence about who God is. The entire Evangelical thrust of persuasion to belief in Christ through words leaves me cold. I know enough about using words to know that they can be misused very easily; with words, you construct worlds that may or may not be "real." I'm not at all intellectual about God.

Yet the Pentecostal way of reaching God through emotion, the "happy-clappy" method churches that get people excited in a kind of pep-rally, roaring-stadium way in order to feel God's presence, also leaves me cold. No matter how I try to become part of the wave of supposedly God-ordained feelings, I am off to the side, observing, thinking how foolish and false it all looks. I don't trust my wayward emotions to lead me to God.

My way of knowing God is about as simple as a 4-year-old: It works. I'll tell you, it works.

When I talk to God (pray), I know He hears me. I know He's with me all the time, just waiting for me to recognize His presence, never impatient, never angry when I ignore Him because I'm caught up in what I'm doing.

He is my yokemate, as tied to me as can be.

I believe in God because prayer works. In 56 years of consciously knowing God as Someone I can talk to whenever I want, about anything, without fear of harshness or condemnation, no matter what I've done, He has never failed me. He's always there to hear me. It works.



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