



from the desk of
Randy Moerbe

When you lie down and when you get up....

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NIV) 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, **when you lie down and when you get up.** 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Faith is both caught and taught.

You've maybe seen the PSA, *like father, like son* described here by the website <http://lisacafe.tripod.com/60sbuyme.html>:

.....It showed a father and his young son enjoying a day together. The little boy idolizes his dad, and does everything he sees his dad do. Dad washes his car, son polishes the hubcap... While riding in the convertible, dad waves to a neighbor; the son waves, too... Dad skips a stone across the pond, so does his son... While sitting under a tree, dad takes a cigarette out of the pack, puts it in his mouth and sets the pack on the ground next to him. The son looks at his dad and picks up the pack....

There is an old adage that you can tell a person's character by what they do when no one's looking. I would suggest to you that your children are always looking at what you're doing.

Consider the following from Chris Herd in "The Responsibility of Parents to Their Children in the 21st Century" (<http://www.churchofchrist.com.au/Lectures/Home/Response.htm>)

I have heard it said that I would rather see a good sermon than hear one any day. The understanding of leading by example, instead of "do what I say but not what I do". If we expect our children to ever respect God, we must first show them how much we love and respect Him. Children will know if mum and dad are hypocritical in their service to God, they will see by your actions. They will know if you enjoy worship or place more importance into other things.

This isn't to say that we can ignore teaching and just figure that through our relationships with our children we can pass on the faith. There are some Scriptures that testify of faith being caught, such as Paul's admonition to young Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12 and the believers' witness to the pagan world in 1 Peter 2:12. What this does say is that we must be careful not to undermine the teaching we do with our actions. What we do should reinforce what we say. If we want to convey that a study of the Word is important, we back this up with our children actually seeing us do that (whether in church or at home). If we tell our children we should be kind to others, what

better way to reinforce that is to get involved in some act of service, preferably done with our children.

Remember, they're always watching!

DCE Randy