

Leading & Teaching

For parents to transfer spirituality to their children, they must live it. This increases the probability that their children will follow suit. This is in contrast to the way many attempt this as they preach what they want their children to do and be while they themselves are not a living example. The saying goes, "You can't go everywhere your kids go, but your actions can." And poignantly, "Kids may not listen to what you say, but they do listen to what you do."

R' Yaakov Kamenetzky once saw someone who was telling his son to look in a siddur to daven. R' Yaakov told this person, "You are just teaching him to tell his own son to look in a siddur. The proper thing is for you to look in a siddur and then your child will follow your lead."

Rebbitzen Henny Machlis once noticed that one of her children wasn't davening with *kavana*. What did she do? She doubled her own efforts to daven with *kavana*, as she said if I daven with *kavana*, my children will also. There is a quote that reads, "Your children will become what you are. So be what you want them to be."

The story is told of a person who was being *menachem avel* ("consoling the mourner of the deceased") Jews who were not religious. While he was there, he noticed many *sefarim* that were well-used. He wondered how a person who learned so much could have such children who were not religious. The deceased man's children explained to him that although their father learned plenty, they never saw him learn.

The Chofetz Chaim gives an analogy of a mikva, that is a cold pit being filled with water. If it is filled with hot water, then in the mikva it will be lukewarm since it was a bare cold pit. On the other hand, if boiling hot water is poured in, then it will be a hot mikva. The same applies to giving spirituality over to one's children. If you are burning with passion, then it can be given over to your children as they are comparable to a bare cold pit since

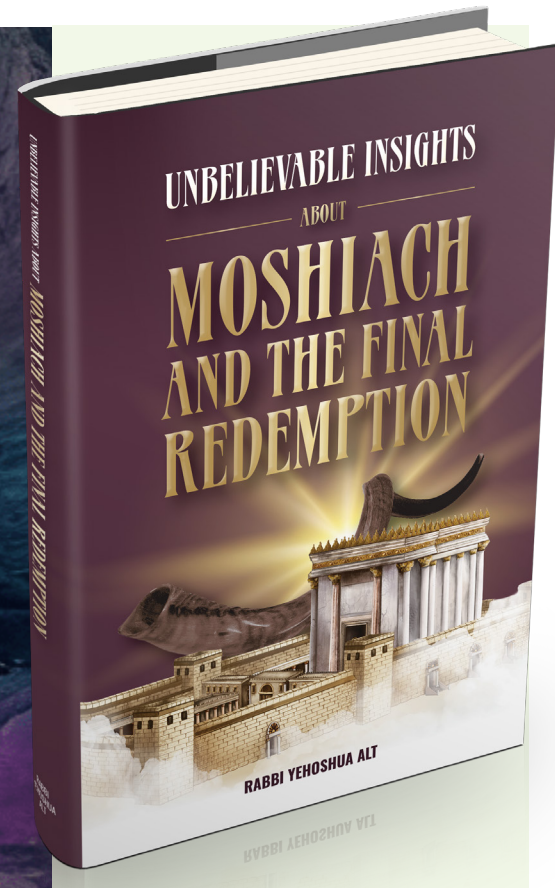
they don't know about avodas Hashem.

So, for one to transfer spirituality to his children, the children need to see it. This is in contrast to how one relates to others where he should hide his righteous and spiritual actions. This is hinted to in *ma rav tuvcha asher tzafanta li'reiecha pa'alta la'chosim bach neged bnei adam* (Tehillim 31:20): most (*rav*) of one's actions should be hidden (*tzafanta*). However, it should be revealed and seen — *li'reiecha* — to *bnei adam* one's children.

This advice is taught to us in *hanistaros l'hashem Elokainu v'haniglos lanu u'levanainu* (Devarim 29:28) as in general that which we do should be hidden (*nistaros*). However, to our children (*levanainu*) it should be revealed (*niglos*).

Years ago there was a wealthy man who resided in Newark, New Jersey who wouldn't announce his pledges for tzedaka, as he would give it privately. One time however, there was an appeal where he announced his pledge loudly. Everyone was surprised since he wasn't accustomed to doing this. The wealthy man explained that he announced his pledge loudly because his children were present and he wanted to educate them about giving tzedaka. If it was given privately as he usually did, his children wouldn't have had that experience.

Let's finish with what R' Avigdor Miller would say. He would remark that if a person tells their two-year-old daughter, "Oy, it's raining, the day is ruined, we can't go out to play, look at how wet and muggy it is," then when this little girl is a 75-year-old grandmother and sees rain, she will say, "Oy, it ruined the day." However, if the parent says to their daughter, "It's raining! Just think of how green the grass will look and how shiny the leaves on the tree will be! Let's put on our coats and go outside and splash in those refreshing puddles and enjoy the rain," then this girl will have such positive feelings when she sees and thinks about rain for the rest of her life.



RABBI YEHOSHUA ALT

The newly released book "Unbelievable Insights about Moshiah and the Final Redemption" is now available (as a paperback, hardcover and digitized version) for purchase and delivery on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0D14Z6283> or by sending an email to yalt3285@gmail.com

Some of the questions discussed in this book are the following.
What is the correlation between the rapid advancement of technology and Moshiah coming?
What concrete actions can we take to express our anticipation of Moshiah?
In what ways can we accelerate Moshiah's arrival?
What will the future redemption look like?

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Thank you.