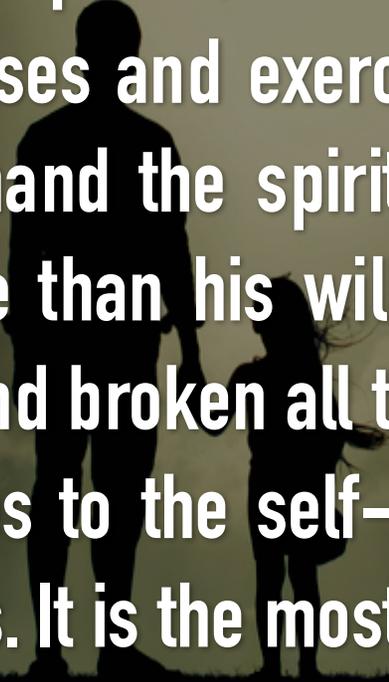




SHAPING THE WILL

The background of the image features the silhouettes of a man and a child standing on a dark horizon line against a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The man is on the left, and the child is on the right, slightly in front of him. The overall tone is contemplative and serene.

“Our objective... is not simply to shape the will, but to do so without breaking the spirit. The will is malleable. It can and should be molded and polished – not to make a robot of a child for our selfish purposes, but to give him the ability to control his own impulses and exercise self-discipline later in life. On the other hand the spirit of a child is a million times more vulnerable than his will. It is a delicate flower that can be crushed and broken all too easily. The spirit, as I have defined it, relates to the self-esteem or the personal worth that a child feels. It is the most fragile characteristic in human nature, being particularly vulnerable to rejection and ridicule and failure”

The New Strong-Willed Child, Dr. James Dobson

WILL & SPIRIT



GOD'S DIRECTION

- **“Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death” (Proverbs 19:18).**
- **“He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently” (Proverbs 13:24).**
- **“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him” (Proverbs 22:15).**
- **“Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you beat him with the rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with the rod and deliver his soul from Sheol” (Proverbs 23:13-14).**

A silhouette of a man and a child holding hands, standing against a bright sun in a cloudy sky. The man is on the left, and the child is on the right. The sun is in the center, creating a strong backlight effect. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

HOW TO HANDLE THE FRAGILE SPIRIT

BREAKING THE SPIRIT

- **“There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of the sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing” (Proverbs 12:18).**
- **“A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but perversion in it crushes the spirit” (Proverbs 15:4).**
- **“A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones” (Proverbs 17:22).**
- **“A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, but when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken” (Proverbs 15:13).**

The background of the entire image is a silhouette of a man and a child holding hands, standing on a grassy hill against a bright, cloudy sky at sunset or sunrise. The man is on the left, and the child is on the right. The sky transitions from a bright yellow-orange near the horizon to a darker blue at the top. Two large, semi-transparent colored boxes are overlaid on the image: a green one on the left and a red one on the right.

**God wants us to
shape the will in
order to build up the
spirit (self-worth,
confidence,
competence) of a
child**

**Satan wants us to let
our children's will
shape us, so that we
crush the spirit in
our frustration and
impatience.**

AVOIDING TRAPS

- Being afraid that enforcing the rules will destroy the relationship we have with our children.
- Wanting to be our children's buddy instead of their parent.
- Wanting to be "popular" with our children, instead of doing what is best for them.
- Deciding not to enforce the rules or exercise discipline because we are too tired, or it will create too much stress in the family.
- Avoiding confrontation and discipline because we want some temporary peace and quiet.
- Pretending that the rebellion will just naturally go away and that our children will mature on their own.

A silhouette of a man and a child holding hands, standing on a dark horizon line against a bright, cloudy sky. The sun is positioned directly behind them, creating a strong backlight effect. The man is on the left, and the child is on the right, both facing away from the viewer towards the light. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall color palette is dominated by the warm tones of the sun and the dark blues of the sky and ground.

TWO “BAD” WORDS

