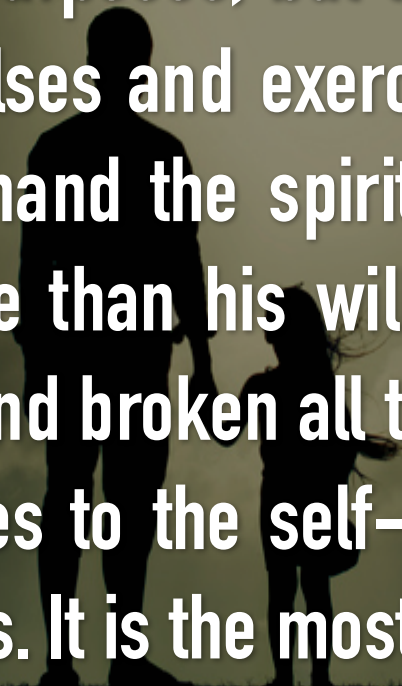




SHAPING THE WILL

A silhouette of a man and a child walking away from the viewer against a bright, cloudy sky. The man is on the left, holding the hand of the child on the right. The child is smaller and appears to be walking slightly ahead or alongside the man. The background is a mix of dark and light clouds, creating a dramatic, high-contrast scene.

“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 young child holding hands, standing on a dark horizon line. They are positioned in front of a large, bright sun that is partially obscured by soft, white clouds. The sky is a deep blue with scattered 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).

A silhouette of a man and a young child holding hands, standing on a dark horizon 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 near the horizon to a deep blue at the top. Two large, semi-transparent colored boxes (green on the left and red on the right) contain white text, flanking the central image.

**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 young child holding hands, standing on a dark horizon line. They are positioned in front of a large, bright sun that is partially obscured by soft, white clouds. The sky is a deep blue with scattered clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

TWO “BAD” WORDS

