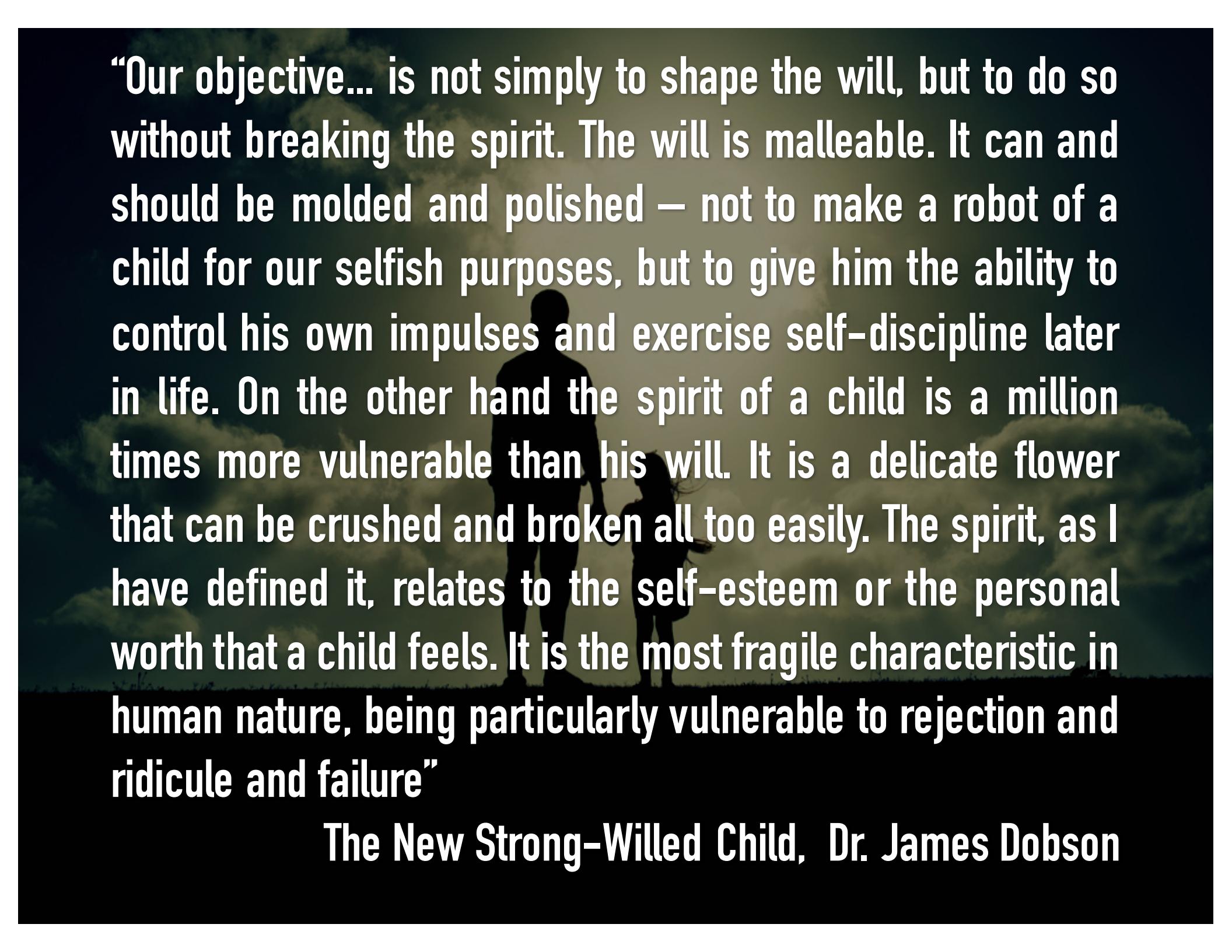




SHAPING THE WILL

A dark, moody background featuring a silhouette of a person walking away from the viewer. The person is positioned in the center, with their back to the viewer. They appear to be wearing a jacket and trousers. The background is filled with bright, white clouds against a dark sky, creating a 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).



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).

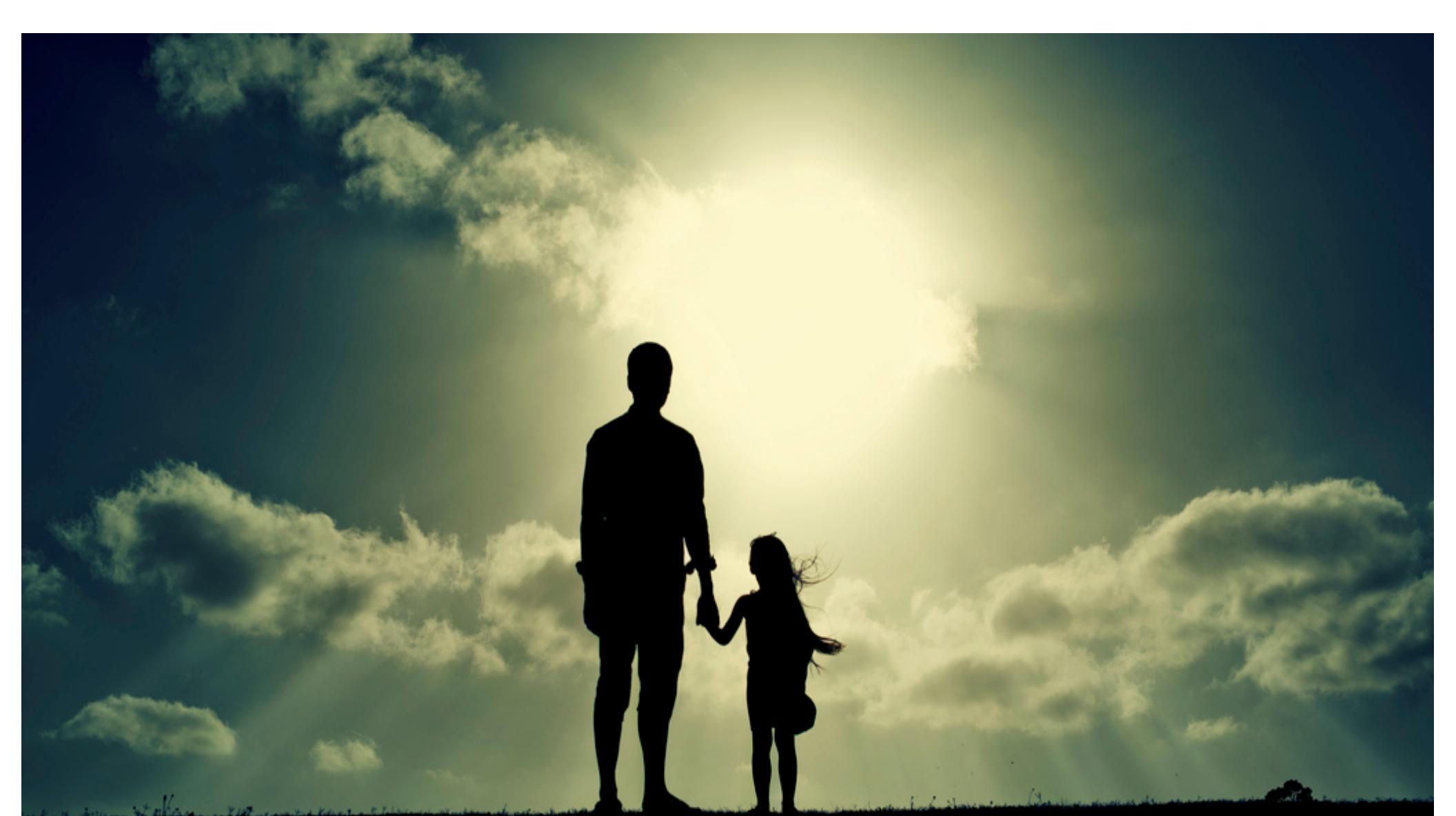
God wants us to shape the will in order to build up the spirit (self-worth, confidence, competence) of a child



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.



TWO “BAD” WORDS

