

## Agency

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Agency was around since the beginning when we were in the pre-existence.

A plan was introduced to all of God's children where we made a decision. Satan didn't want to follow the plan laid out, he wanted to save all of God's children without giving them a choice.

We had a decision to make. We could either follow Satan or our Savior Jesus Christ. We couldn't choose both sides. We had to use the agency we had been given to make a choice.

The plan that the Savior presented allowed us to have agency.

Satan didn't want us to have agency.

1 - And I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying: That Satan, whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is the same which was from the beginning, and he came before me, saying— Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor.

2 - But, behold, my Beloved Son, which was my Beloved and Chosen from the beginning, said unto me—Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.

3 - Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him, and also, that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten, I caused that he should be cast down;

4 - And he became Satan, yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice. [Moses 4:1-4]

When we use our agency, when we make choices a consequence follows. The consequence that comes along can either be good or bad for us depending upon the choice we made.

Remember the words to the hymn?

“Do what is right let the consequence follow, battle for freedom in spirit and might.” [Do What Is Right, Hymns 237]

We must use our agency to do good in order to progress towards the Celestial Kingdom.

2nd Nephi 2:27 tells us some interesting things about agency:

27 - Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the

captivity and power of the devil; for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself.

So we are free to choose good or evil in this life.

To illustrate this fact, I'd like to share the following story:

A scorpion was walking along the bank of a river wondering how to get to the other side. Suddenly he saw a fox, he asked the fox to take him on his back across the river. The fox said "No, if I do that you'll sting me and I'll drown." The scorpion said "If I do that, we'll both drown." So the fox thought about it and finally agreed. So the scorpion climbed up on his back, and the fox began to swim. But halfway across the river, the scorpion stung him. As poison filled his veins the fox turned to the scorpion and said "Why did you do that? Now you'll drown too." "I couldn't help it" said the scorpion "It's my nature." [Star Trek: Voyager - Scorpion, The tale is a variation of The Scorpion and the Frog]

The fox used his agency. He knew the risks of what could happen and chose the wrong path to follow. He died from the consequences of his action.