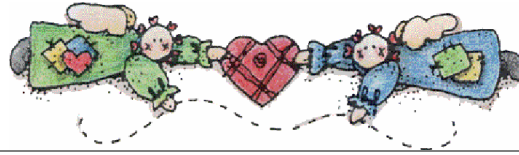


“AGENCY”



WITH AGENCY COMES RESPONSIBILITY.

Why must there be “choices” in all things? “Next to the bestowal of life itself, the right to direct that life is God’s greatest gift to man” (David O. McKay, in Conference Report, Apr. 1950, p. 32).

What is the right to direct life? _____

1 Nephi 3:5 How did Laman and Lemuel react to this request?



1 Nephi 3:7 What decision did Nephi make? What great gift were Nephi, Laman, and Lemuel using?



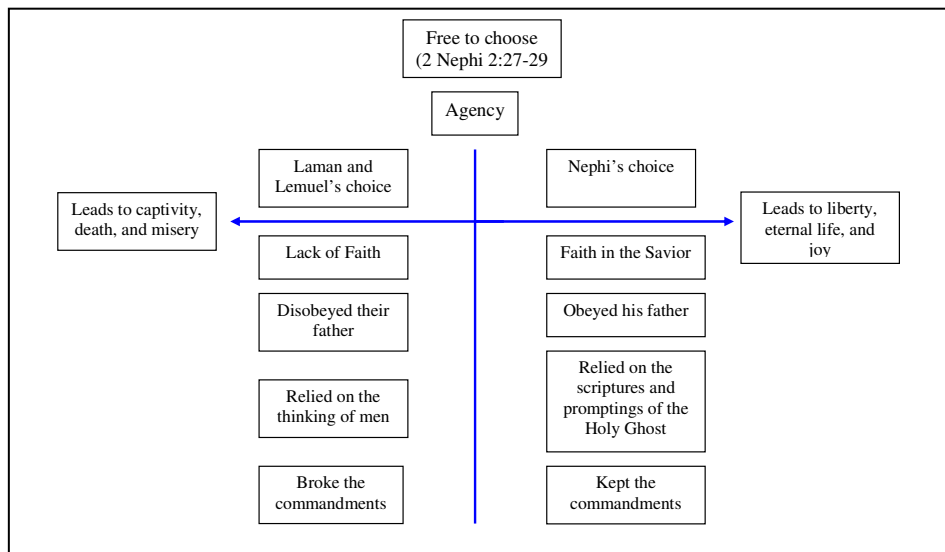
1 Nephi 3:31 Laman and Lemuel relied on the logic of men to make their decisions.



1 Nephi 4:1-3 What do you think Nephi had done before this time to strengthen his faith in the Lord?



1 Nephi 4:6 Later on, Nephi explained another source of his faith.



Galatians 5:1 In what ways were Laman and Lemuel in bondage?



Many Choices Are Best Made Before a Crisis Occurs

Paula and Karen were friends, and both were active in the same ward. Paula had made a firm decision that she would use her agency to keep the commandments. She had also decided what she would do if anyone tried to get her to do something that was wrong. Paula often thought about her commitments as she partook of the sacrament. Karen had never taken time to decide what she would do or would not do.

One night they were at a party celebrating the end of the school year. A young man entered with a case of beer and began passing it around the room.

Paula's choice was already made. "No, thank you," she said firmly as a can was pushed toward her. Several people tried to get her to take it, but she resisted and left the party. Karen was also offered a can. She stared at it a moment, wondering what she should do. "Come on," a voice beside her prodded. "Take it." Karen knew it was wrong, but almost everybody was drinking. "Why, you don't know what you're missing. Come on; don't be a spoilsport. Just once isn't going to hurt you!" Even though she knew what was right, Karen finally gave in and took a drink.

- ♥ Which young woman had the harder decision to make? _____
- ♥ Why was Paula's choice easy? _____
- ♥ What made Karen's decision difficult? _____
- ♥ What choices between right and wrong might you be required to make this year? _____
- ♥ What kinds of choices can be made before a crisis occurs? _____
- ♥ How can deciding what to do ahead of time make choices easier? _____

