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BYU Education Week 2015

3- How Satan's Campaigns Destroy Agency - "choose liberty and eternal life, ... or to choose captivity and death." (2 Nephi 2:27)

**Strategy for War in the Last Days –
Successfully Combating Satan**

The screenshot displays a web browser window with the address bar showing the URL: <https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1987/10/the-great-imitator?lang=eng>. The page content includes a navigation menu on the left for the General Conference, a breadcrumb trail for October 1987, and a main heading for "The Great Imitator" by James E. Faust. A video player is embedded in the center, and a sidebar on the right offers options to listen, print, download, share, and like the content. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button and several open applications, including "BYU Ed Week 2014", "Microsoft PowerPoint", and the current page.

1:07 <https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1987/10/the-great-imitator?lang=eng>

Brigham Young quote

*If I listen carefully I can
hear Satan's laughter
and his chains of captivity
rattling.*

A real war, with real life casualties.

After his “Special Forces” have successfully tempted you.

Remember what Enoch saw:
“And he beheld Satan; and he
had a great chain in his hand, and
it veiled the whole face of the
earth with darkness; and he
looked up and laughed, and his
angels rejoiced” (Moses 7:26).

Do these two persons have agency?

Stuck on the Escalator

<http://youtu.be/oXCuGvsThEw>



AGENCY

“to destroy the agency of man” (Moses 4:3).



FAMILY
PRIESTHOOD
?



AGENCY

“to destroy the agency of man” (Moses 4:3).



THE GREATEST WAR EVER FOUGHT!

How do Spirits fight "Wars?"

***"...you could pile up
the accumulated
currency of the
entire world and it
could not buy a loaf
of bread in the
economy of
heaven."***



([*You Matter to Him*](#), Dieter F. Uchtdorf
Conference Oct 2011) Well what about a war
in heaven?

I could pile up
the accumulated weapons of
the entire world
all the bombs, guns, suicide
bombers, terrorists, etc.

they could
NOT kill one spirit
in the war in heaven.

A war



with no guns.

A war



with no bodies.

What Satan doesn't want you to know about the war.

This is what Satan doesn't want you to know about the war in heaven and the war now on earth. If we were to know the enemy's most powerful weapon we would be more prepared to battle.

Remember Alma (Alma 31:5) saying

And now, as **the preaching of the word** had a great tendency **to lead the people to do that which was just—yea, it had had more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword, or anything else,** which had happened unto them—therefore Alma thought it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the **word of God."**

Satan does the same..

INFLUENCIAL WORDS!

- *Persuasion and Deception AND OTHER SPECIAL FORCES.*

Remember "*Lucifer*" at one point "*was in authority in the presence of God*" ([D&C 76:25-26](#)). He was a leader. A chosen one. Lucifer with his compelling personality and influential words, **persuaded** "*many*" to follow after him ([Abr. 3:27-28](#)). He did not use force or weapons of mass destruction ...

He succeeded while we're in the presence of God! Unlike now.



Satan 's Political Platform

**“to destroy the
agency of man”** (Moses 4:3).

AGENCY HAS SEVERAL COMPONENTS

You thought "agency" just meant "choice." But its much more...

Victor Ludlow says: "***the seven essential elements of agency: identity, knowledge, freedom, action, law, efficacy, and preservation.***" ([Principles of Practices of the Gospel Restored](#), pg. 157).

Inbox (1,721) - drrick x Blogger: Dr. Rick - Al x Dr. Rick: Dr. Rick's Inc x Dr. Rick Solving Emc x Using Our Free Ag x

https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1975/04/using-our-free-agency?lang=eng&query=agency#watch=video

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My brothers, sisters, and friends, one of God's most precious gifts to man is the principle of free agency—the privilege of choice which was

Share Sign in to bookmark pages, highlight text, and write notes.

Start Calendar - Mic... BYU Ed Week 20... 1-Recognizing t... 2-The Battle Gro... 3-How Satan's C... Using Our Free... 8:04 PM

1:50 Bruce R. McKonkie defines ... THERE ARE BUT 2 parties <https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1975/04/using-our-free-agency?lang=eng&query=agency#watch=video>

- LDS psychologist Allen E. Bergin in "[Toward a Theory of Human Agency](#)" wrote: "***The concept of agency may be subdivided into numerous dimensions such as: The initiation of behavior or the originating of ideas. This may be termed the domain of creation. The processes of decision-making or choosing, that is, the domain of reason. The processes of self-regulation or the domain of will. These and related topics provide enough substance for several books.***" (BYU Studies, vol. 16, 1975-1976).

AGENCY

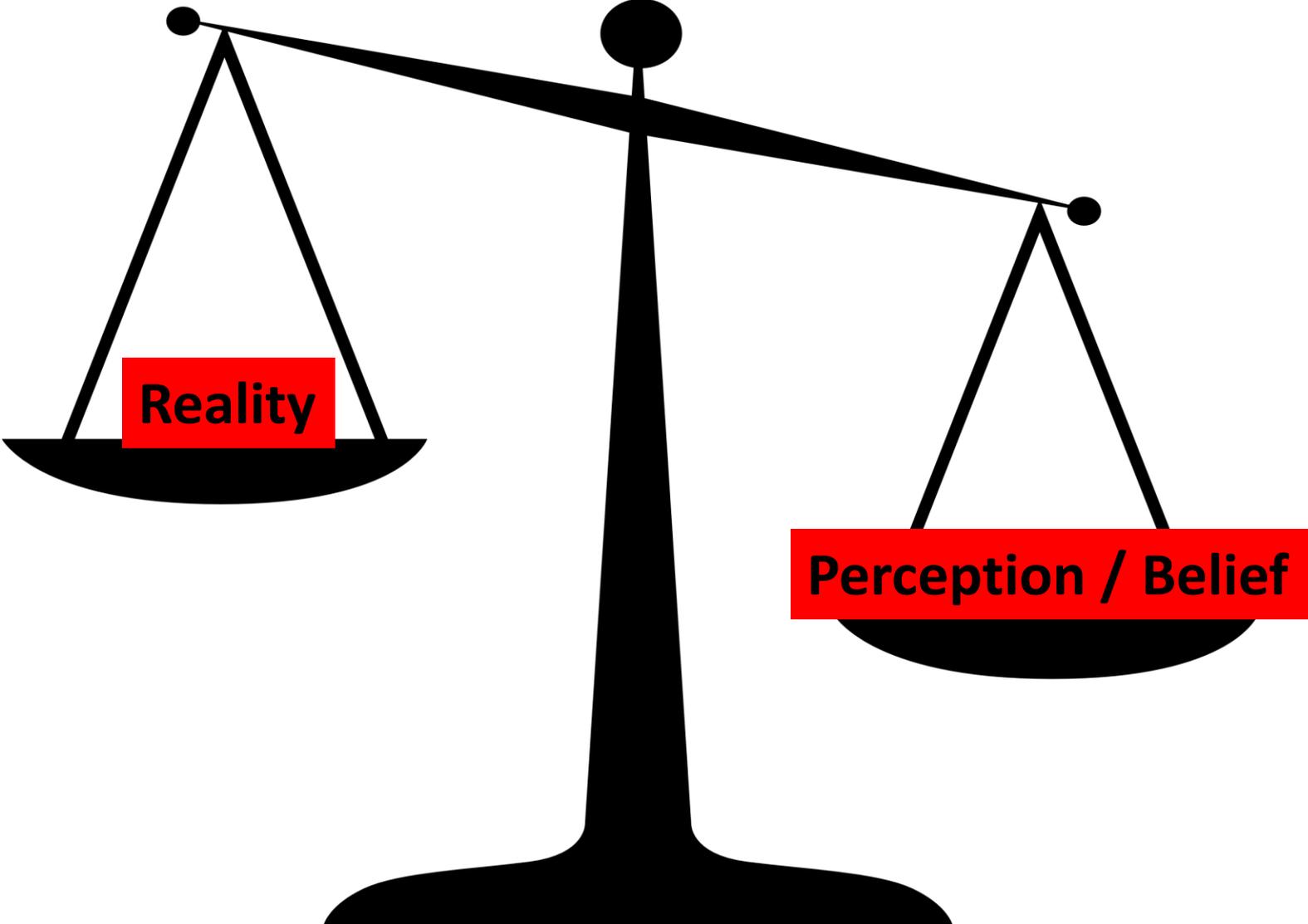


**SATAN CANNOT CHANGE GOD'S DEFINITION "AGENCY".
However, he can change your perception of it.**

Perception / Belief

Your ideas of you and the world around you-often obtained by what you see, hear, think, or become aware of.

Which has the most profound effect upon behavior?



Agency



AGENCY \neq CHOICE

Adam and Eve an example

1) **CHOICE**. God told Adam and Eve they had a "**choice**" He followed up by saying they could freely eat of every tree in the garden except one, the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Of that tree God said, "***thou shalt not eat of it, nevertheless, thou mayest choose for thyself, for it is given unto thee; but, remember that I forbid it, for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.***" (**Moses 3:17**).

2) **KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CONSEQUENCES**

of their choice a "***choice between good and evil***"



3) **ACCOUNTABILITY**. He held them **accountable** for the choice they made. You can read about the consequences for their choice in **Genesis 3:16-17**. It was here in the Garden of Eden God gave Adam and Eve "Agency" (**Moses 7:32**).

Agency is...

***to act with
accountability
and
responsibility
for our actions.***



Robert D. Hales

Agency, Essential to the Plan of Life, Liahona, Nov. 2010

Choice, Knowledge of
Consequences and Accountability
are essential elements to agency.

Satan only has to remove the
PERCEPTION of ANY ONE of these
three to destroy agency.

The judge ordered 18 year old Joe to 1-15 years in the Utah State Prison.

I completed plenty of testing and record reviewing on Joe prior to sentencing. His measured IQ was below average. He had some learning disabilities and qualified for an IEP during junior high and high school. He had an obvious problem with aggression and touching girls. Because of his IEP and [No Child Left Behind](#) regardless of his behavioral problems or refusal to do homework - - In 18 years Joe never received any substantial consequence for any of his disruptive or lazy behavior. The school just continued passing him on to the next grade even though he had problems with reading and writing. In a similar fashion, the parents had consistently protected Joe from experiencing failure and withheld any type of penalty for his misbehavior. (And influenced others to do the same.) Joe had never had a job or been held accountable for any of his behavior and yet he seemed to have it all!

He had ...

a place to live,

food to eat,

an Eagle Scout (his mom did it),

a high school diploma,

a cell phone,

a car,

spending money,

a girlfriend,

etc etc

On his 18th birthday he inappropriately touched his underage girlfriend.

Now, he was on his way to prison.

*Joe, had been unemployed for several years now. He didn't have any disabilities-just didn't feel the need to work. Joe kept busy driving the children to dance, soccer, basketball, piano lessons etc etc. He was a counselor in the Elder's Quorum presidency. His wife was working part time at a local restaurant and attending counseling for depression. The bishop was paying for her counseling. They just had their 6th kid. She was breastfeeding so they qualified for **WIC**. They had an **EBT** payment card, like a credit card, so the **WIC** monies along with their **SNAP, cash and food stamp benefits** were automatically deposited onto their card for use at their convenience. The bishop and extended family from time-to-time also helped the family with money and food. Nevertheless, Joe's family seemed to have all the necessities of life-cell phones, a place to live, etc etc*

From the outside appearance Joe's family seemed to have everything their neighbors had next door -where the father worked two jobs and the wife worked part time.

Consequence

*You pick
up one
end
you pick
up
the other.*

Choice



Matthew 25: 2 And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish.

3 They that *were* foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

.... **7** Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

8 And the foolish said unto the wise, **Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.** **9** But the wise answered, saying, **Not so;** lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.



What's missing?



PERCEPTION: stuck on the escalator. (Programs with ALL decrease accountability)

Satan's political party platform features *Guaranteed Salvation*.

"and I will redeem ALL mankind, that
ONE SOUL SHALL NOT BE LOST.

and surely I will do it; "

(Moses 4:1)

Satan promised salvation without effort, without excellence, without hard work, without individual responsibility. Think of it *Exaltation Without Effort!* This shortcut to salvation obviously captivated many gullible and lazy spirits. They wanted something for nothing. Satan's campaign consisted of *telling* us what we wanted to hear and *giving* us what we wanted. What could motivate a crowd more than promising us exactly what we wanted, with no charge or personal effort?

The war in the preexistence was over agency. Limiting one's perception of their accountability decreases agency.

Satan is making war "... He plans to destroy liberty and freedom-economic, political, and religious, and to set up in place thereof the greatest, most widespread, and the most complete tyranny that has ever oppressed men. **He is working under such perfect disguise that many do not recognize either him or his methods.** There is no crime he would not commit, no debauchery he would not set up, no plague he would not send, no heart he would not break, no life he would not take, no soul he would not destroy. He comes as a thief in the night, he is a wolf in sheep's clothing. **Without their knowing it,** the people are being urged down paths that lead only to destruction. **Satan never before had so firm a grip on this generation as he has NOW.**

"(Improvement Era, Nov. 1942)

SAME SEX MARRIAGE-AGENCY

(Perception)





“We call upon responsible citizens and officers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen abstinence from recreational use of marijuana” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102).

Ordained women

If you have a chance to vote to legalize recreational use of marijuana how would you vote?

‘If someone asked if you were for legalization of marijuana what would you say?’

Choice

Do not support
a law for gay
marriage.

Do support a law
for gay marriage.



Do not support a law for gay marriage.



Do support a law for gay marriage.

“Homosexual behavior violates the commandments of God, is contrary to the purposes of human sexuality, and deprives people of the blessings that can be found in family life and in the saving ordinances of the gospel.” (Handbook 2, 21.4.6)

“Let me mention ... examples of voices that are ungodly and powerful among Satan’s many proclamations...., same-gender intimate associations and even marriages are acceptable...” (Woolsey October Conference 1995)

“We call upon responsible citizens and officers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society” (Ensign, Nov. 1995, 102).

- The Constitution guarantees the right to same-sex marriage.
- Equal dignity in the eyes of the law.
- Americans — of whatever sexual orientation — favor expanding same-sex marriage.
- Polls show about 60% Americans favor same-sex marriage
- Issues are simply “tolerance” and “equality.”

AS PER SATAN: KNOWLEDGE OF CONSEQUENCES



I don't believe in
"same-gender
marriage", BUT I
support a law that
allows gay people to
get married.



"Same-sex
couples
should be
able to get
married."

- PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA



*Supreme Court Ruling
Makes Same-Sex Marriage
a Right Nationwide*

The Freedom to Marry at the
**UNITED STATES
SUPREME COURT**

AS PER GOD: KNOWLEDGE OF CONSEQUENCES

“The covenant God offers us in marriage contains the crowning promise, the one that most touches our hearts. To be sealed in the temple of God by the sealing power that God has restored to the earth allows God to promise us that we may have all that he has, to live the life that he lives, and to be with him, the Savior, and our faithful family members forever in perfect love and harmony.”

Henry B. Eyring, Sept 1996

“Further, we warn that the disintegration of the family will bring upon individuals, communities, and nations the calamities for told by ancient and modern prophets. (Nov. 1995, 102).

“There are consequences of same-sex marriage on religious freedom, society, families, and children.”

The Divine Institution of Marriage



Faith

GOD's view:

Accountability



*Satan's successful destruction of our agency is
not by force or with weapons of mass
destructions*

***but by deceiving us about the
consequences of our choices,
beguiling us to neglect
obtaining/giving adequate
knowledge, and lying about our
personal accountability.***



SAME SEX MARRIAGE-AGENCY

(Perception)

Boyd K. Packer

The study of the doctrines of the gospel will improve behavior quicker than a study of behavior will improve behavior. . . . That is why we stress so forcefully the study of the doctrines of the gospel.

[“Little Children,” *Ensign*, November 1986, 17]



Knowledge regardless of source, directly influences agency.



AGENCY

“to destroy the agency of man” (Moses 4:3).

You've done it once already

THE END

- Tomorrow's topic

Fitting on your personal armor