



Annalyn and Agency

We know that we have agency, but do we really understand just how much power of choice we really have? May I illustrate what I mean?

Our oldest daughter Sherise had had her second baby. She was a tired and busy mom with a two year-old and a newborn. She has been trying to teach her older daughter, Annalyn, not to be a whiny grumpy child. One summer day it was naptime, and naptime for most moms of little ones is sacred. She put Annalyn the two-year old down for a nap, but she refused to stay in her bed. Finally, Mom put her in her bed and closed the door. To Annalyn it was an awful injustice. She wailed and screamed, “Let me out,” she cried. When that failed, she screamed all the louder and pounded on the door with her hands and then her feet. She tried everything, but Mom wouldn’t budge. Then, my daughter said it got quiet. “Success,” she thought. Now she could take a well-deserved nap along with both of her daughters.

Just as she was lying down, there came a lovely little voice from beyond the door.

“Mommy, I happy now. Come get me.”

I am grateful that my daughter is teaching her daughter that happiness and cheer is a choice we make not a chance we hope for. How important is it to understand this? In my opinion, beyond the choice of Christ and His commandments, I’m not sure there is a better choice to be made than to choose happiness. Source: Experience of Sherise and Annalyn Oldham.

