

Why I'm NOT ...

~~Atheist~~

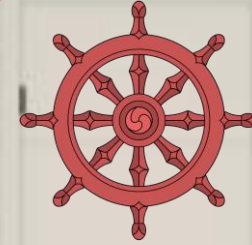
Agnostic

Hindu

Muslim

~~Buddhist~~

Jewish/
Christian



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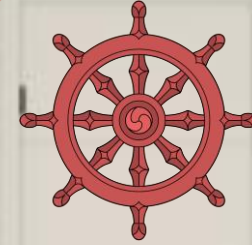
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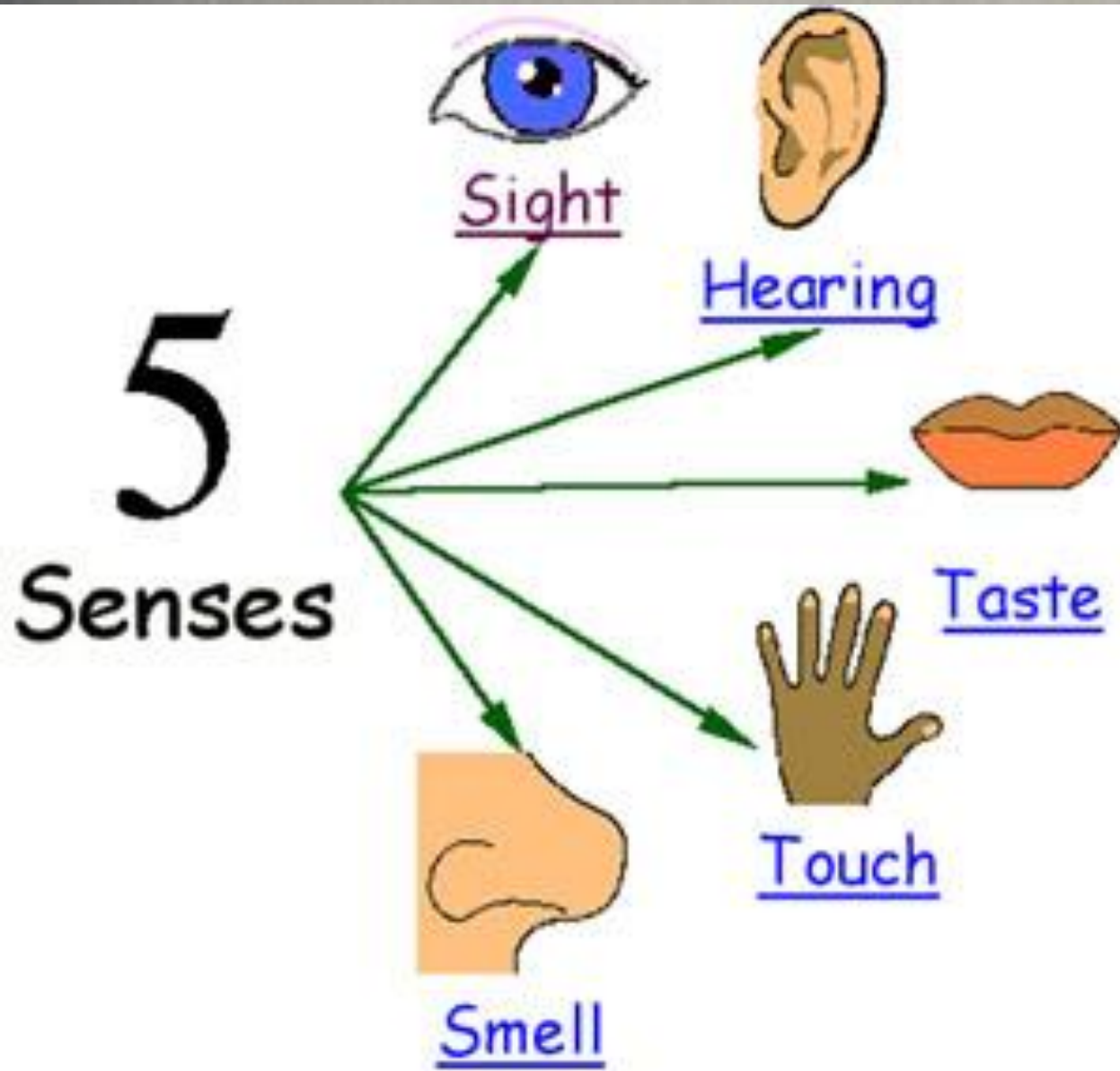
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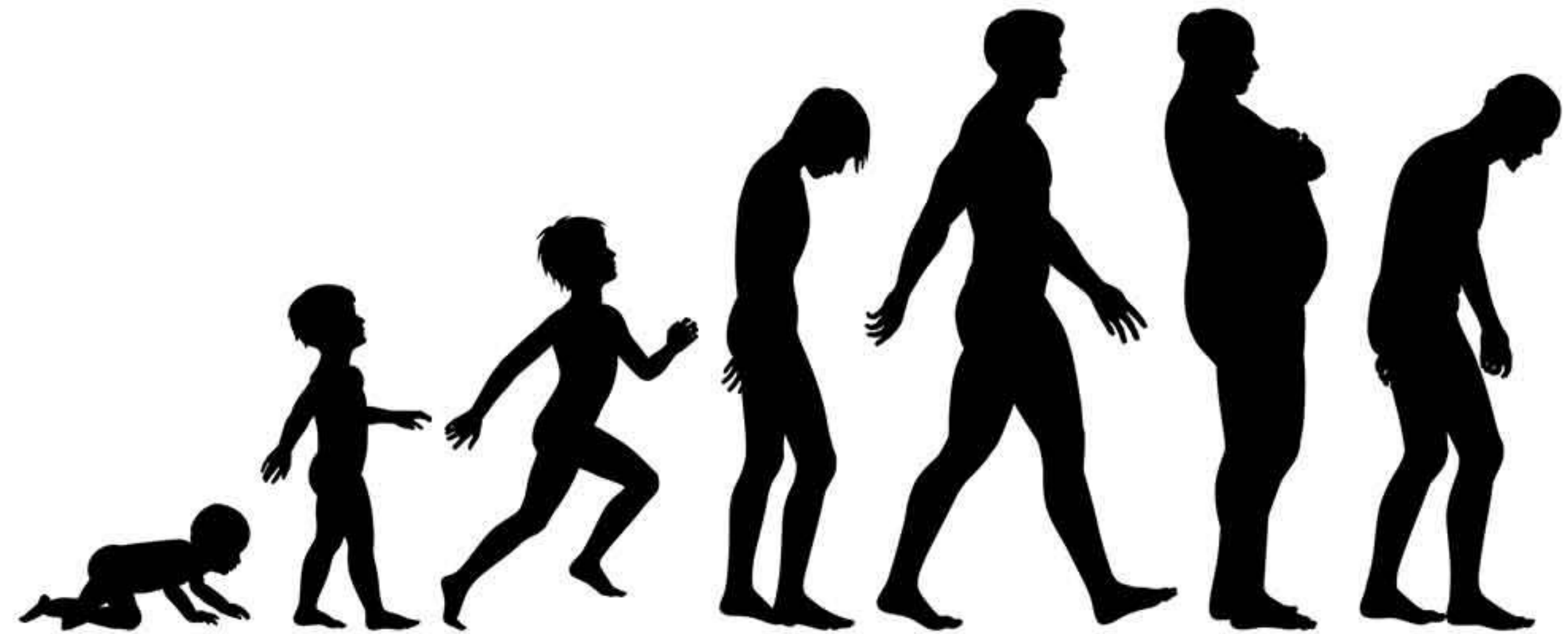




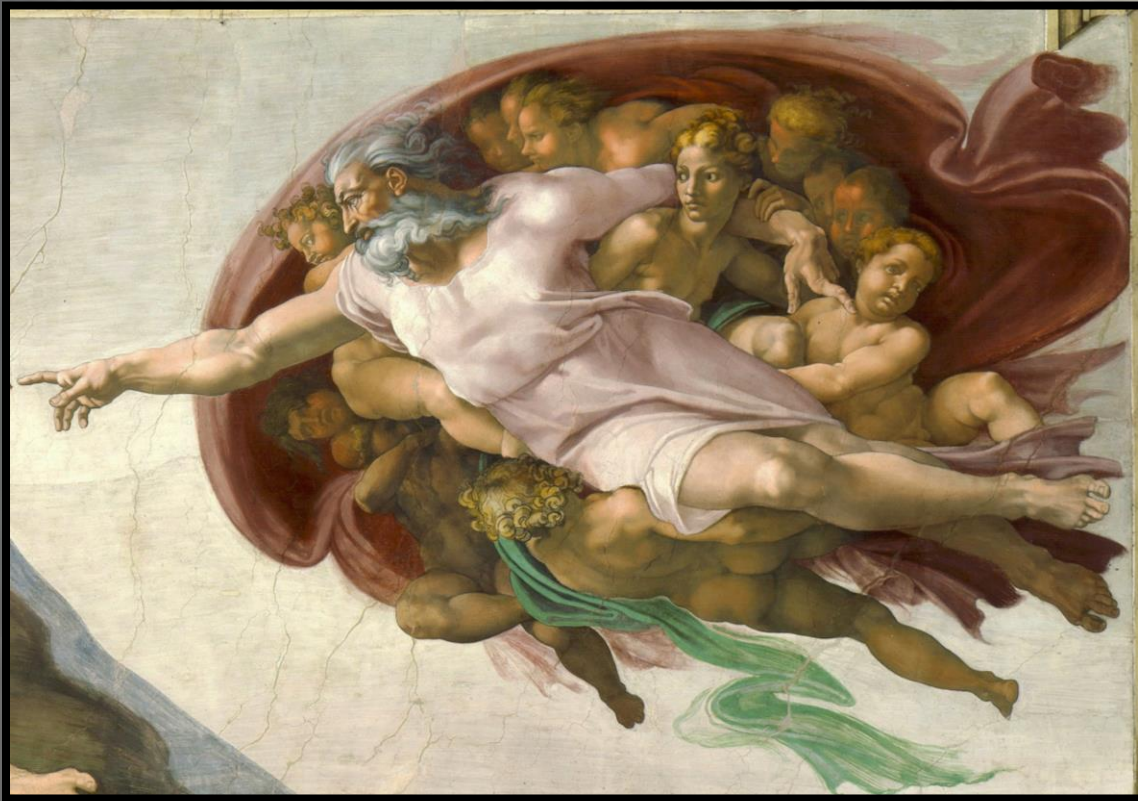
Agnostics can't decide whether the evidence there is a God is sufficient when weighed against the evidence there is not a God.



Early in life we learn about our surroundings through our five senses

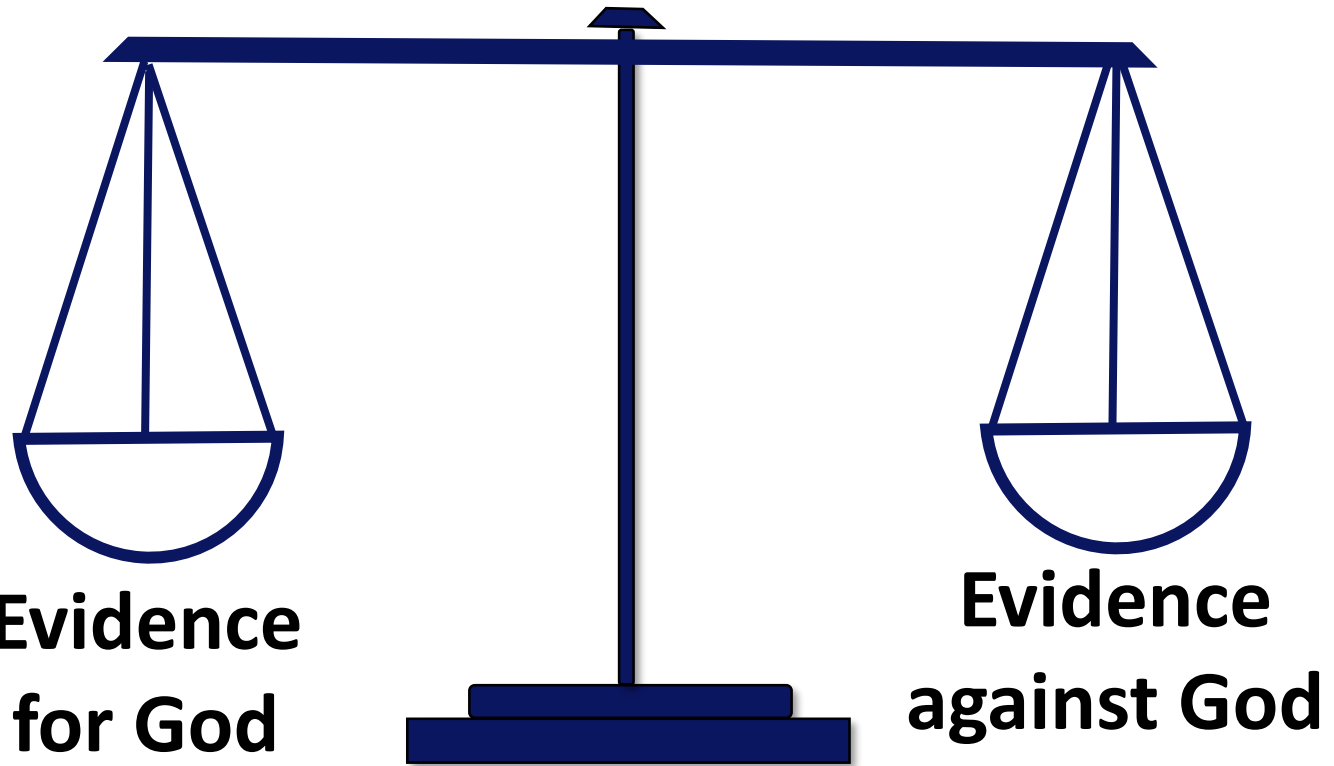


As we age, we begin learning through our thinking, and not merely our sensing



The inability to know God through our five senses often becomes part of the discussion on whether he exists

Weighing the Evidence



The evidence: Our perceptions of reality

Positive Perceptions

- ✓ 1. Why is there objective right/wrong?
- ✗ 2. Why is there “beauty”?
- ✓ 3. Why is “justice” and “fair” important?
- ✓ 4. Why is there a basis for dignity and honor?
- ✓ 5. Why do we uniquely value humanity?
- ✓ 6. Why is there meaning and significance in life?
- ✓ 7. Why do my actions fail to meet my standards?

Negative Perceptions

- ✓ 1. Why is there suffering?
2. Why can't we see God?
3. Why do many prayers seem unanswered?
4. How does God mesh with science making sense of the cosmos?

The evidence: Our perceptions of reality

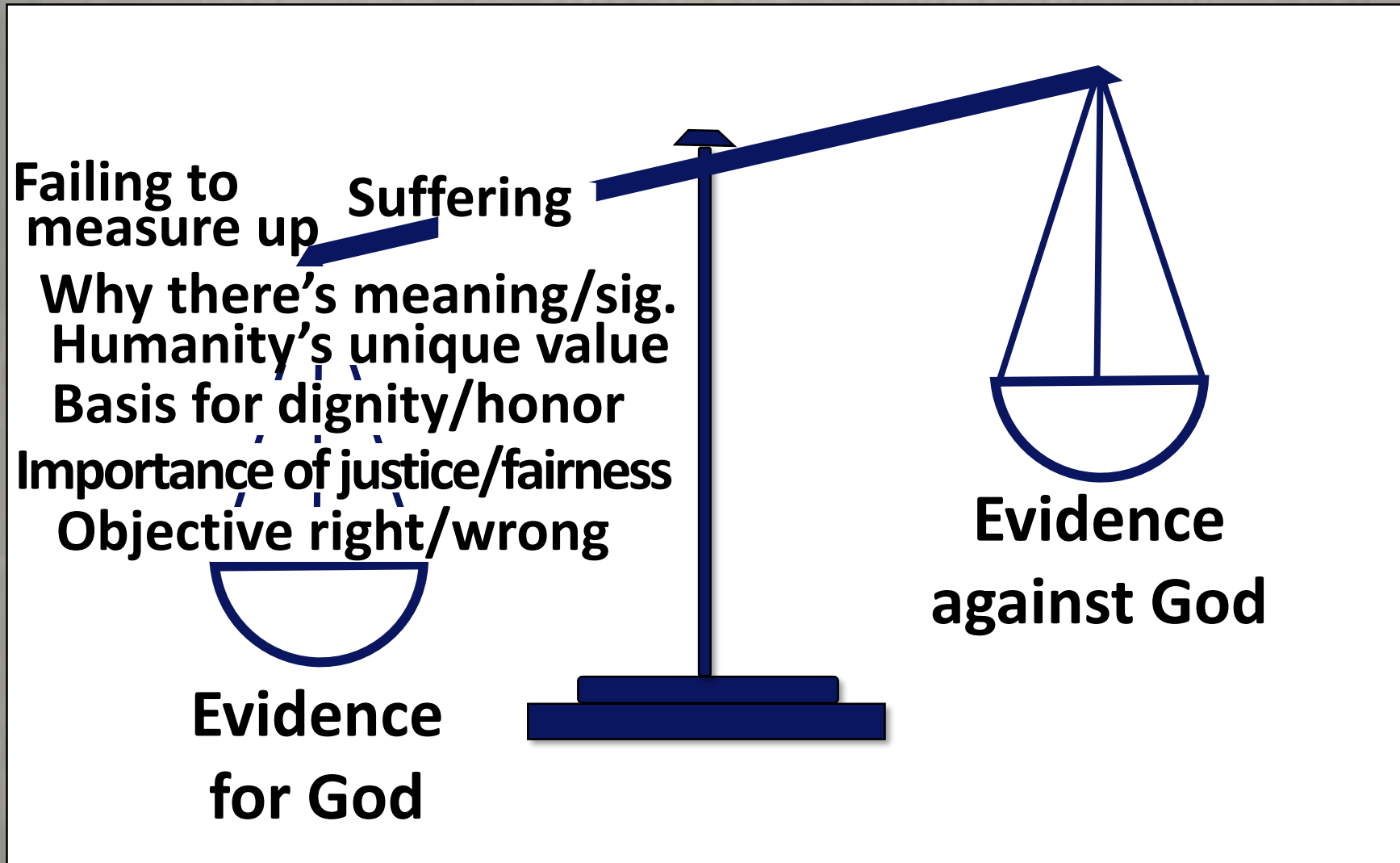
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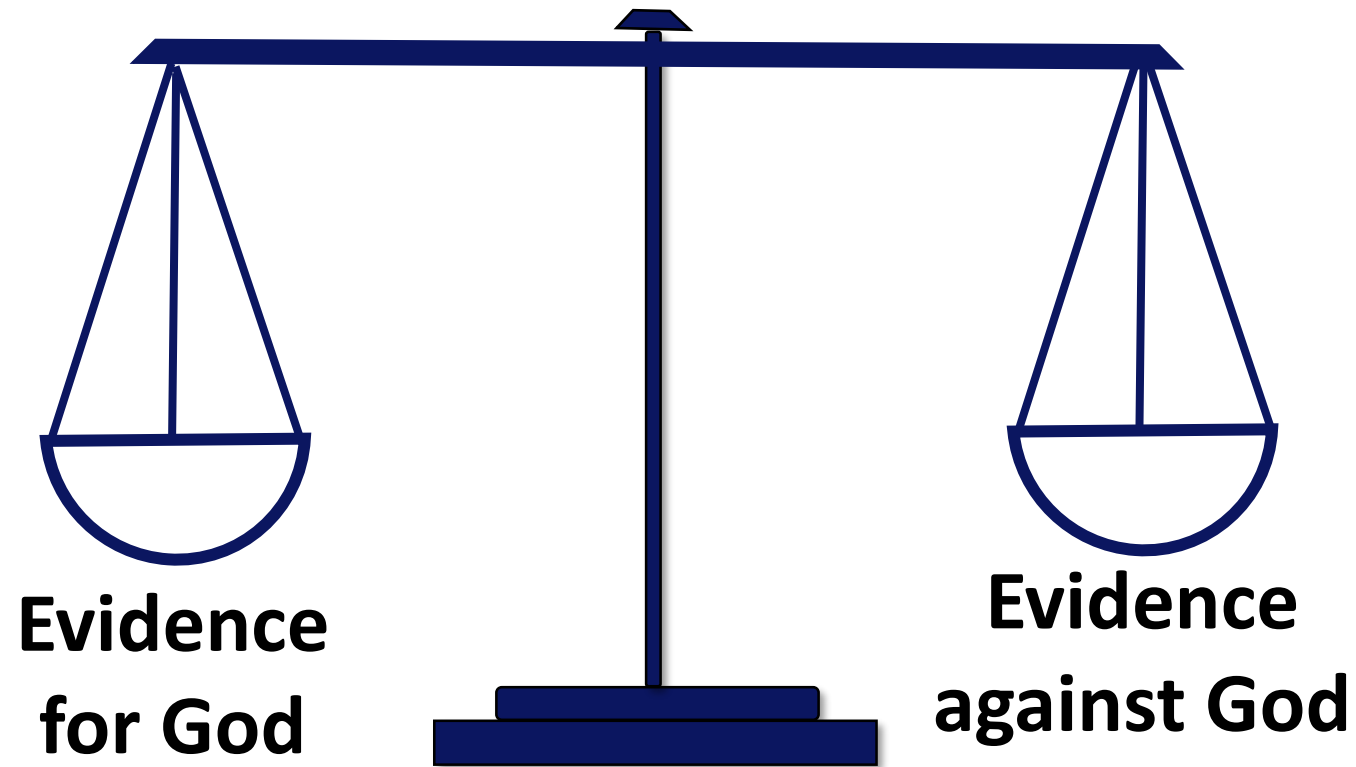
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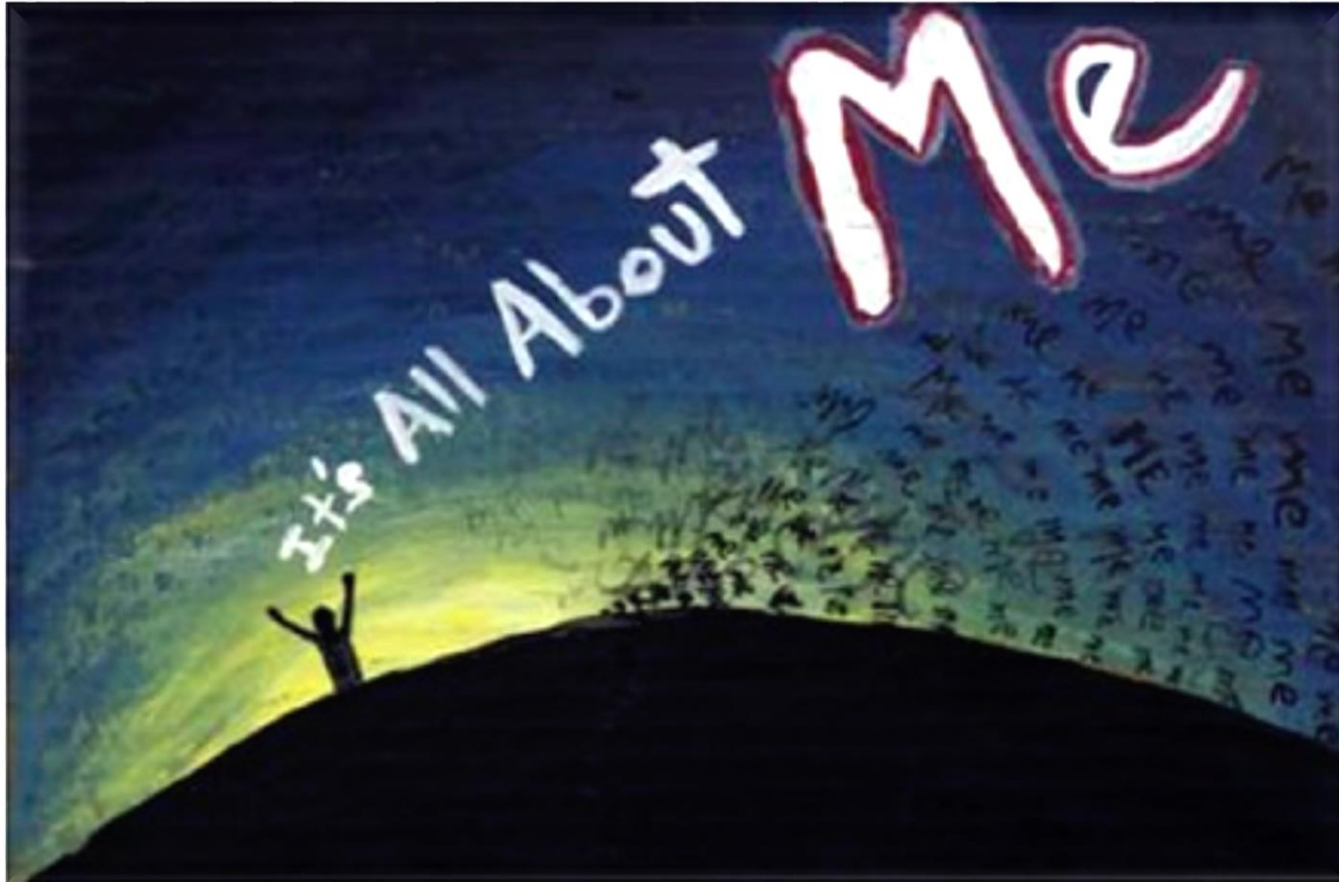
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Weighing the Evidence



Is the fact that we can't see God evidence against God?





Beware:
narcissism
at play!!!

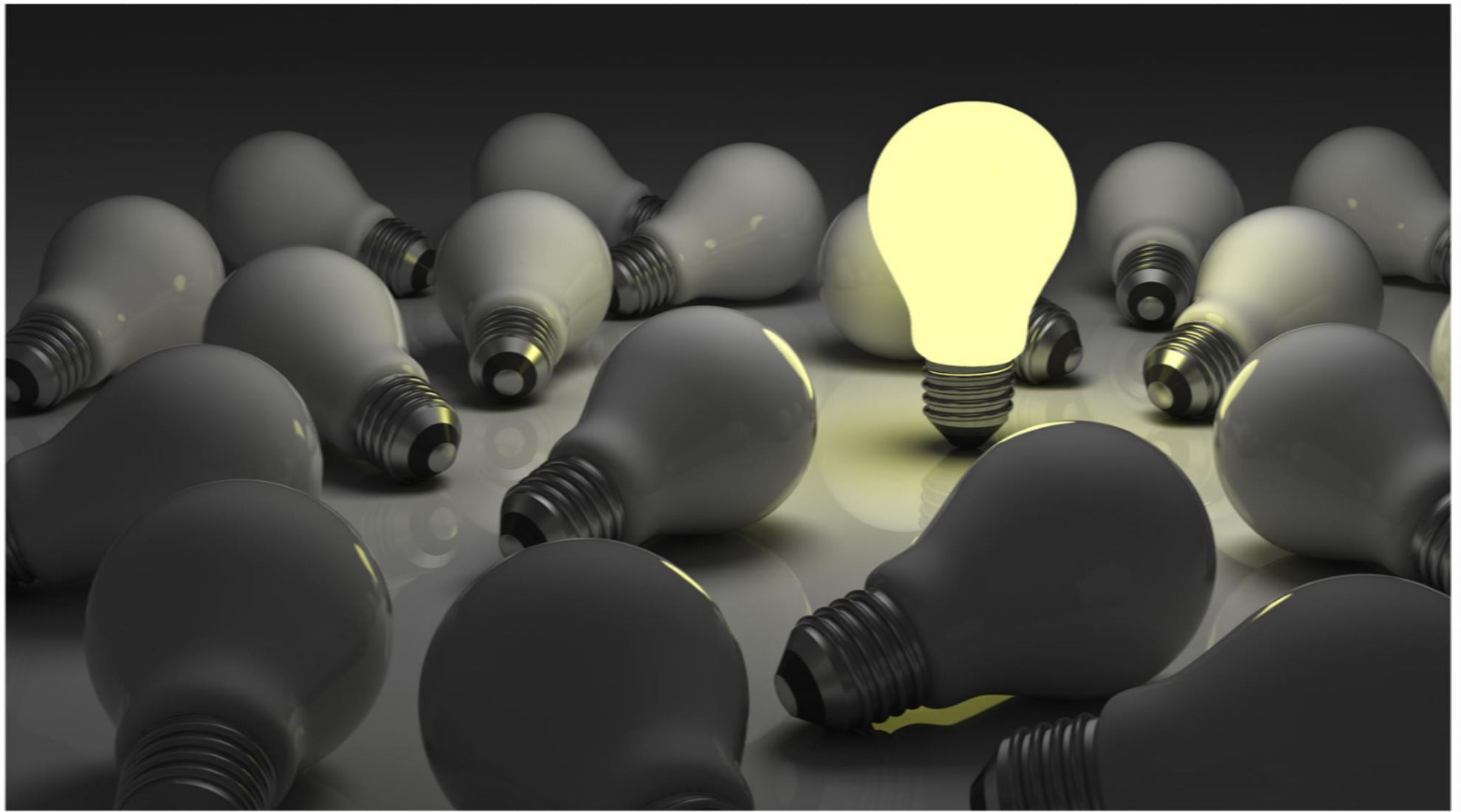


GENESIS

We turn the creation story on its head



We turn the creation story on its head





Israel was given a unique revelation about God





You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth – Ex. 20:3-4



“You cannot see my face, for
man shall not see me and live”
– Ex. 33:20

Bizarre for its day, but
perfectly sensible in our era!



“You cannot see my face, for
man shall not see me and live”
– Ex. 33:20



And yet, we must also
see the dynamic in
play at Bethlehem

Even this was bizarre for its day, but makes some sense in our era!



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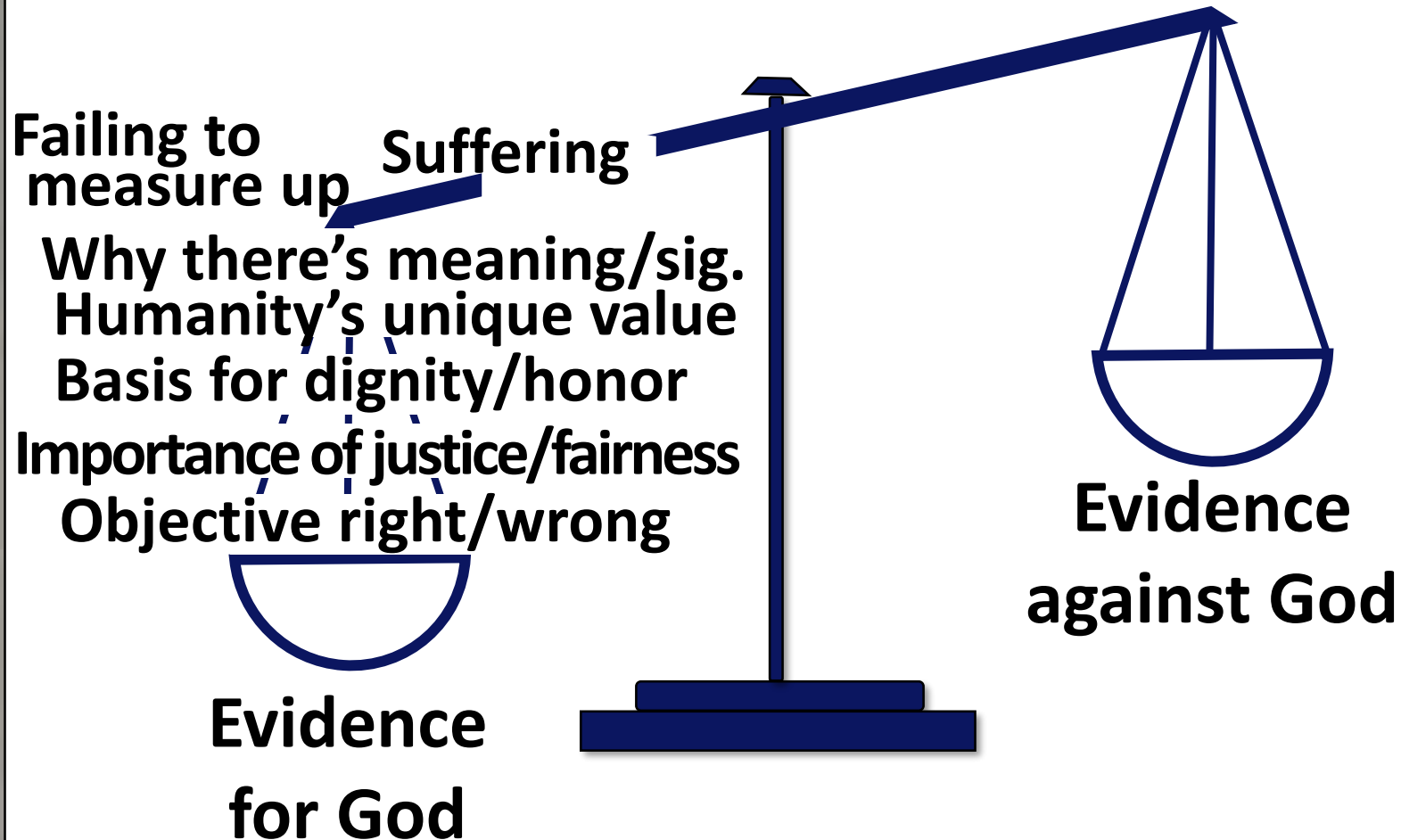
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Phil. 2:6-7

Mt. 24:36

Ps. 8

Is the fact that we can't see God evidence against God?



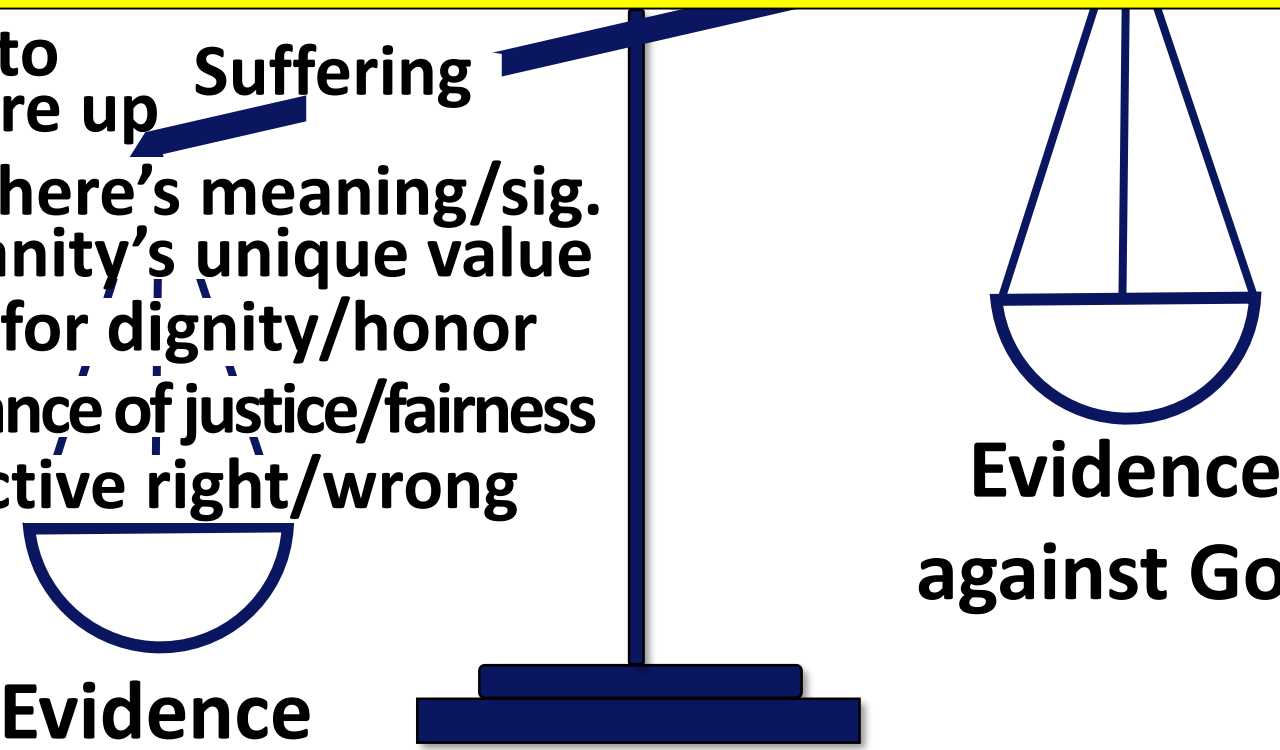
Is the fact that we can't see God evidence against God?

Not for me

Failing to
measure up

Suffering

Why there's meaning/sig.
Humanity's unique value
Basis for dignity/honor
Importance of justice/fairness
Objective right/wrong



Evidence
for God

Evidence
against God

The evidence: Our perceptions of reality

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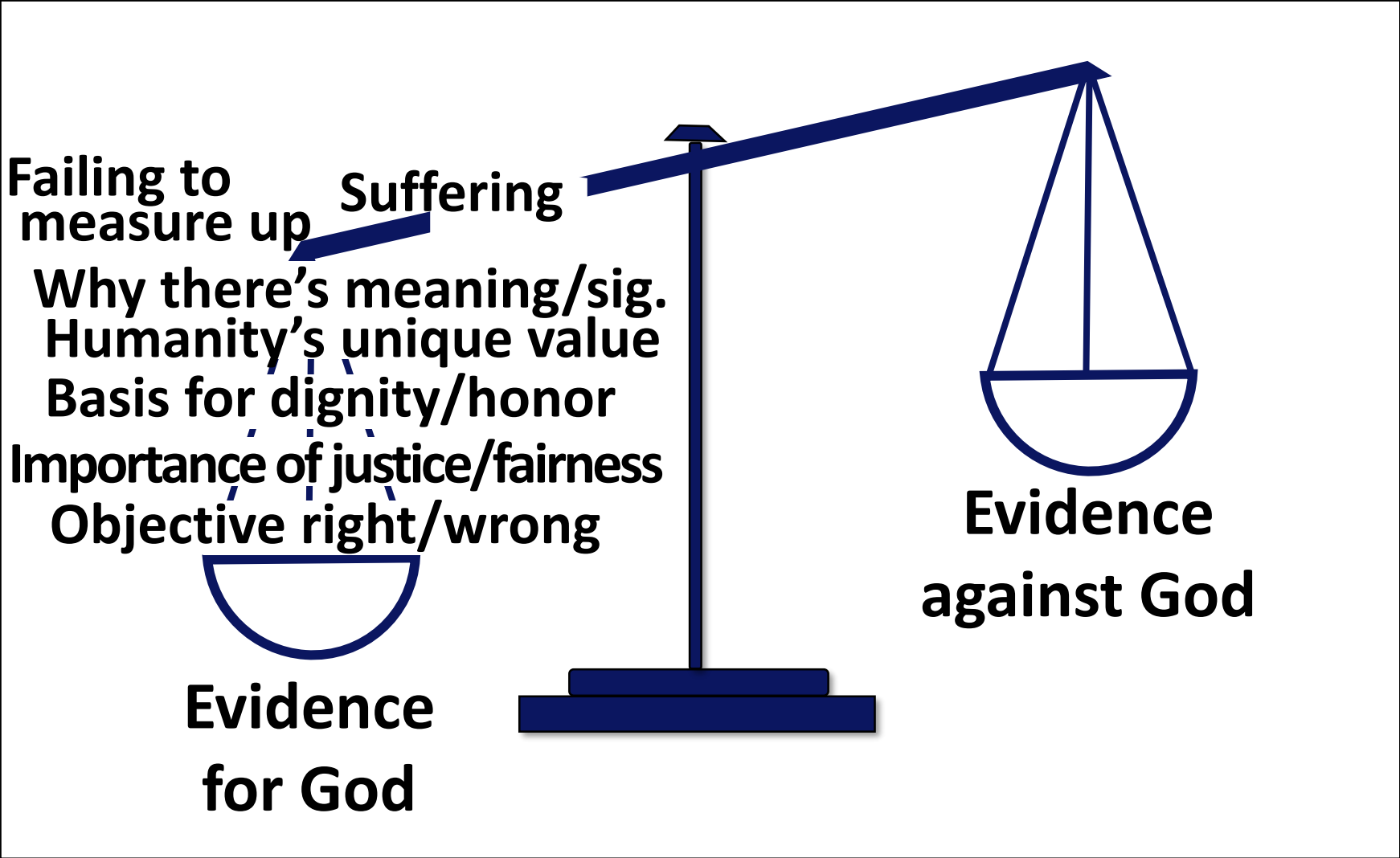
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Why do so many prayer go unanswered?





**Whether or not there is a
God or empty space when
we pray is a personal matter
hard to use as proof**



?

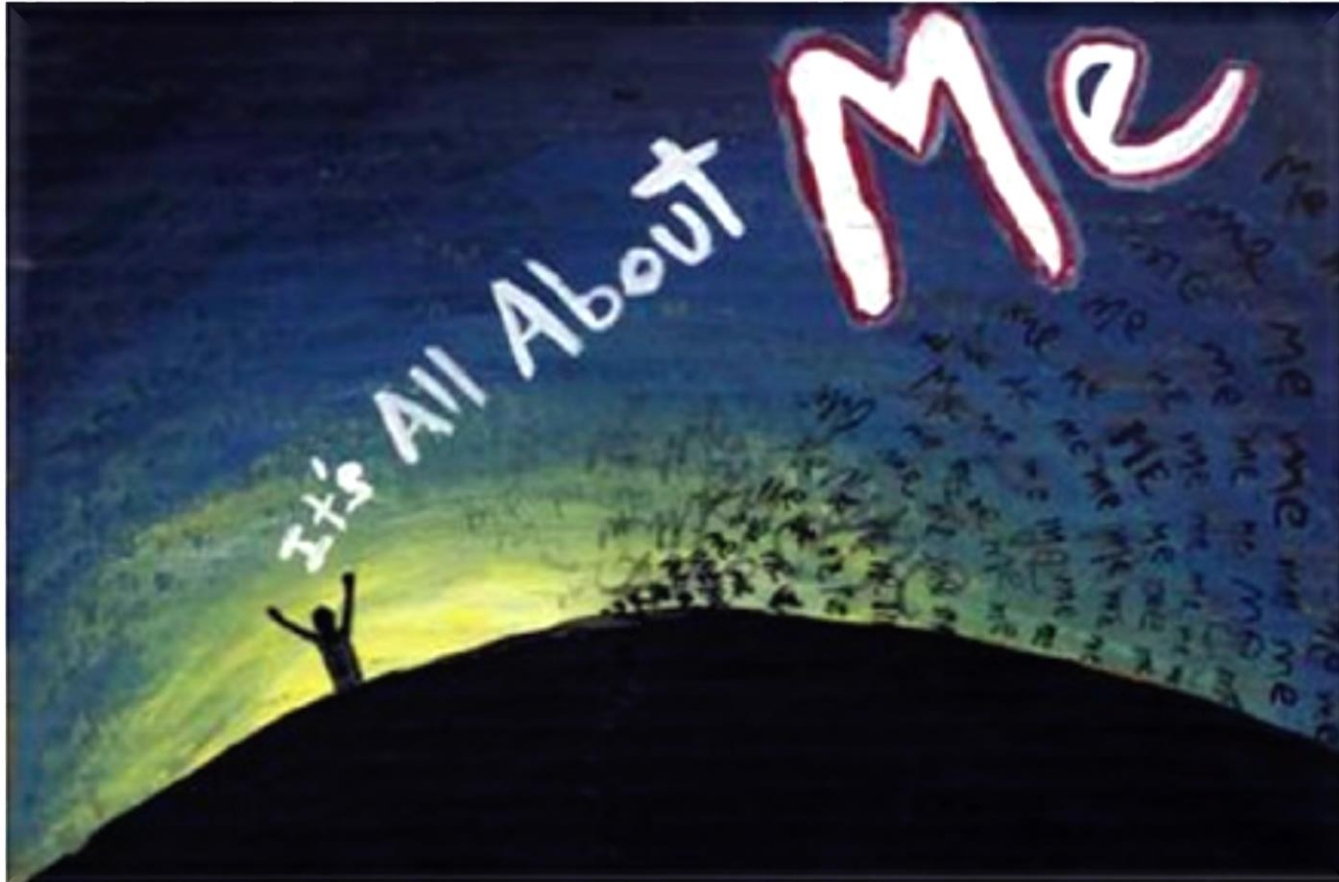
What is the **purpose** of prayer?

?

What is the **purpose** of prayer?



**I want
something I can't
get on my own?**



Beware:
narcissism
at play!!!

?

What is the **purpose** of prayer?



**I am supposed
to be about
God's will**



How should we pray?



How should we pray?

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN
HEAVEN
HALLOWED
BE THY NAME

THY *KINGDOM* COME • THY *WILL* BE DONE
ON *EARTH* • AS IT IS IN *HEAVEN*

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR
DAILY BREAD &
FORGIVE US OUR *DEBTS* AS WE
FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS &
LEAD US NOT INTO
TEMPTATION BUT
DELIVER US FROM *EVIL*

FOR *THINE* IS THE **KINGDOM**
AND THE **POWER**
AND THE **GLORY**
FOREVER and *EVER* AMEN

Hmmmm...



How should we pray?

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE THY NAME.
THY KINGDOM COME.
THY WILL BE DONE,
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

?

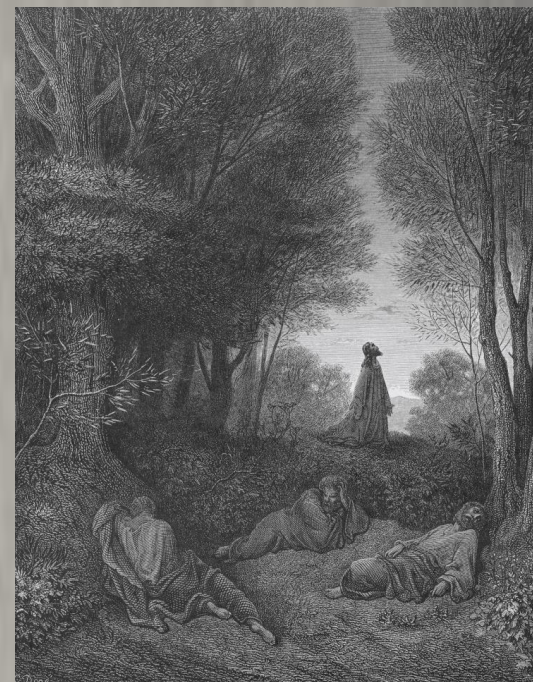
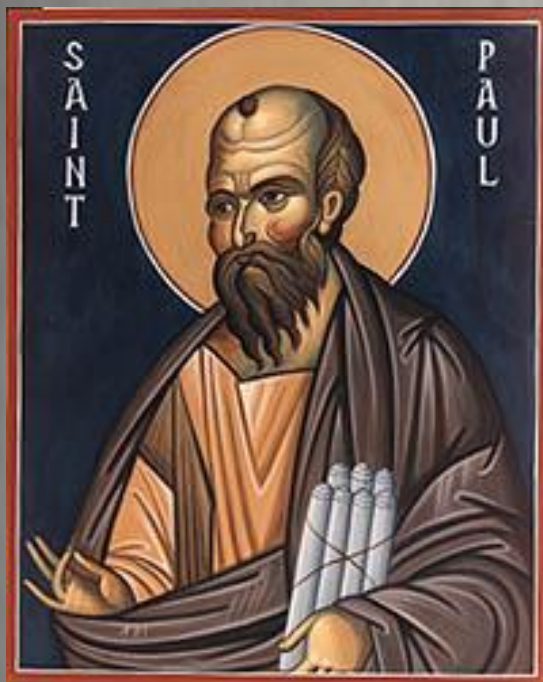
Are there **limits** to prayer?



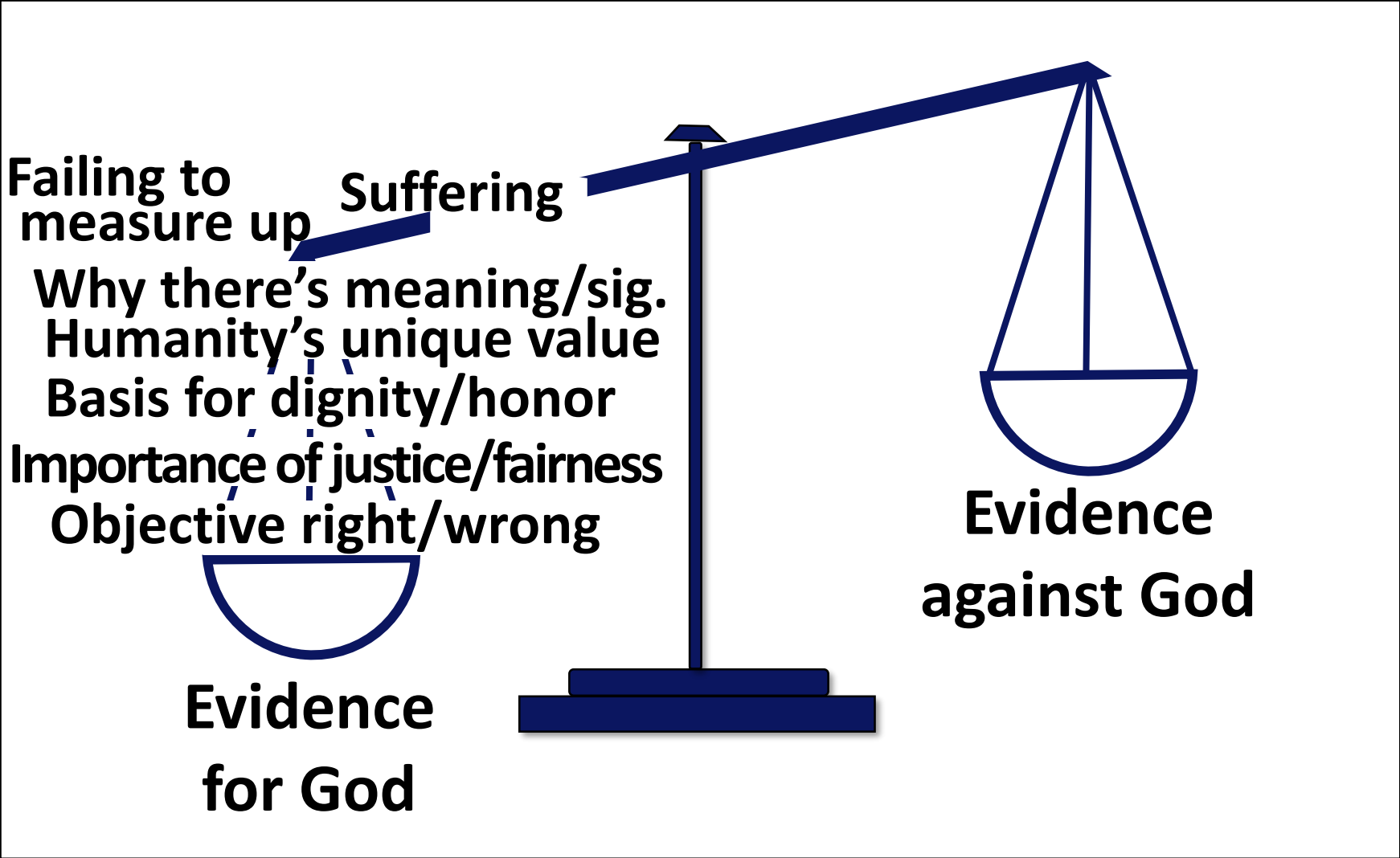
**Of course!
God is God, not
our genie**

?

Are there **limits** to prayer?



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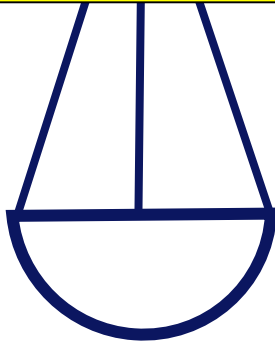
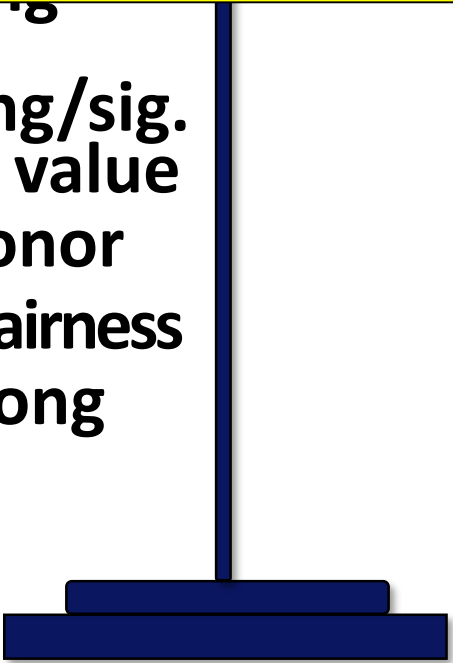
Why do so many prayer go unanswered?

This world is spiraling to a purpose and will that is not my own

measure up ~~something~~
Why there's meaning/sig.
Humanity's unique value
Basis for dignity/honor
Importance of justice/fairness
Objective right/wrong



Evidence
for God



Evidence
against God

Points for home



Points for home



*“You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything”
(Ex. 20:3-4)*

Points for home



*“You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything”
(Ex. 20:3-4)*

I'm going to learn more of God

Points for home



*“Pray then like this... Your
will be done”
(Mt. 6:9-10)*

Points for home



*“Pray then like this... Your
will be done”
(Mt. 6:9-10)*

**I’m going to pray God’s will
more intentionally**

Points for home



“David said to his servants, “Is the child dead?” They said, “He is dead.” Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped”
(2 Sam. 12:19-20)

Points for home



I will walk in faith, regardless
of the answers

*“David said to his servants, “Is the child dead?” They said, “He is dead.” Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped”
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