

# Why I'm NOT ...

~~Atheist~~

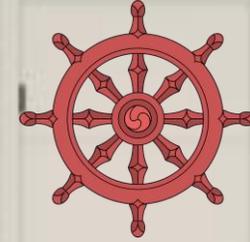
Agnostic

Hindu

Muslim

~~Buddhist~~

Jewish/  
Christian



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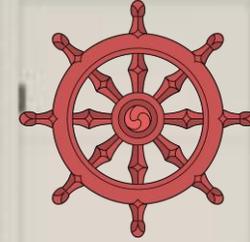
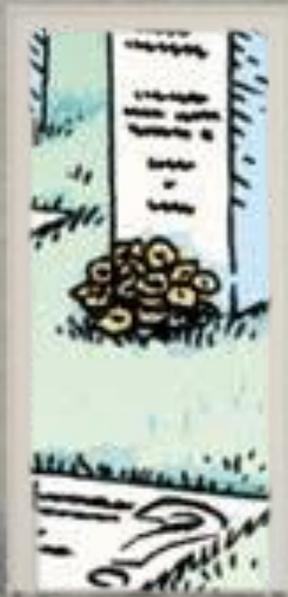
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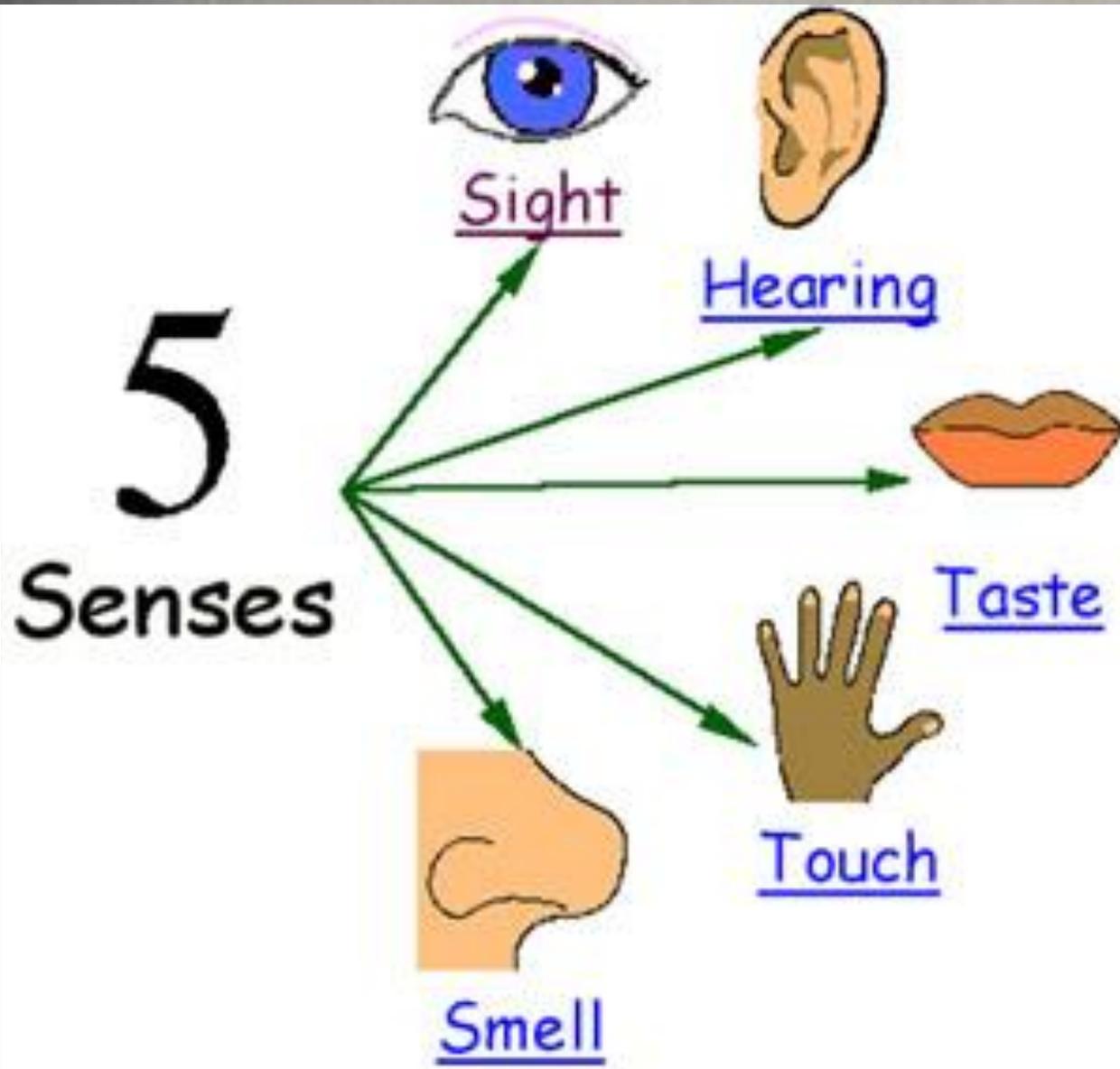
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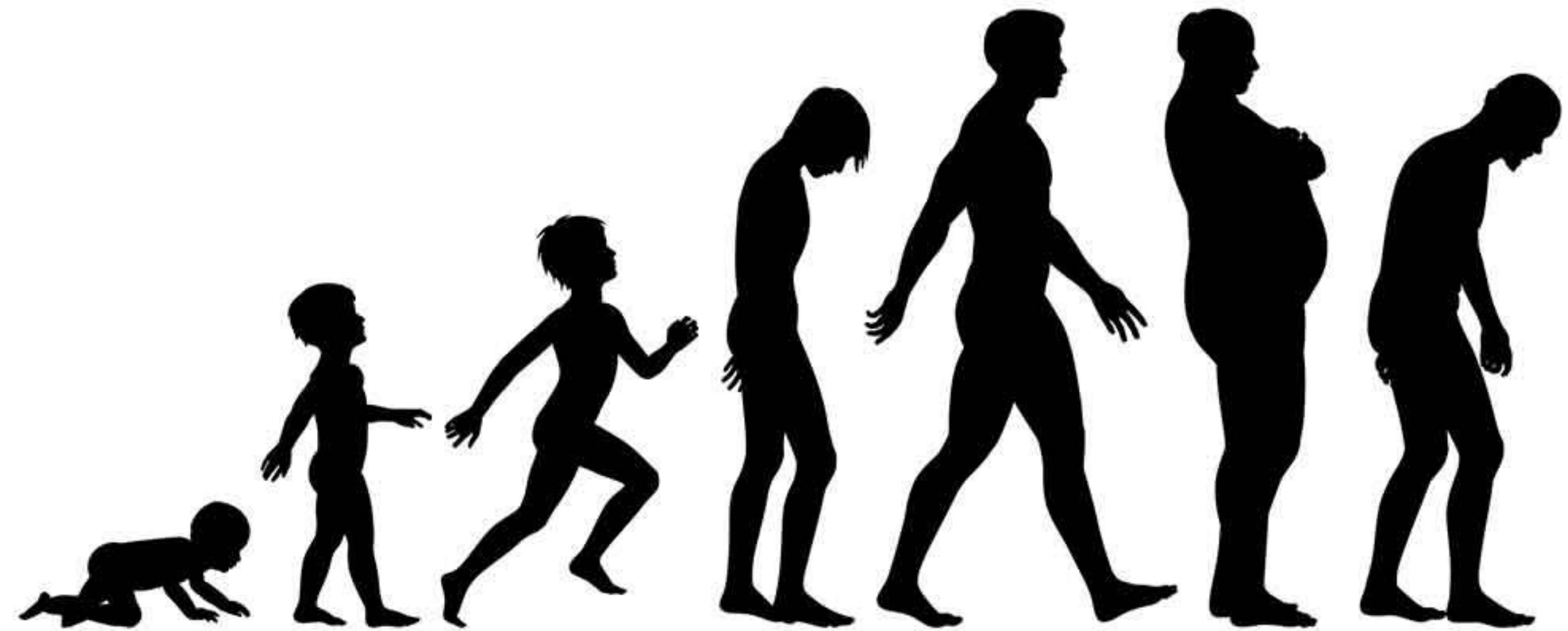




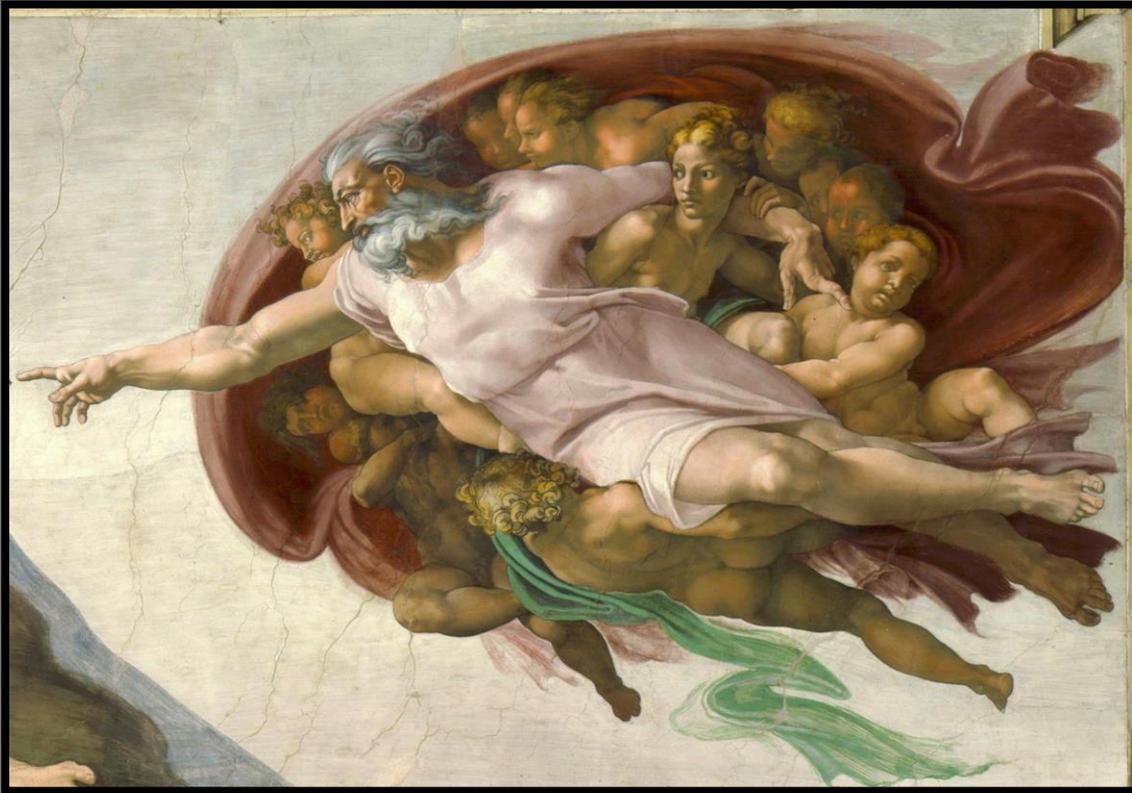
Agnostics can't decide whether the evidence there is a God is sufficient when weighed against the evidence there is not a God.



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

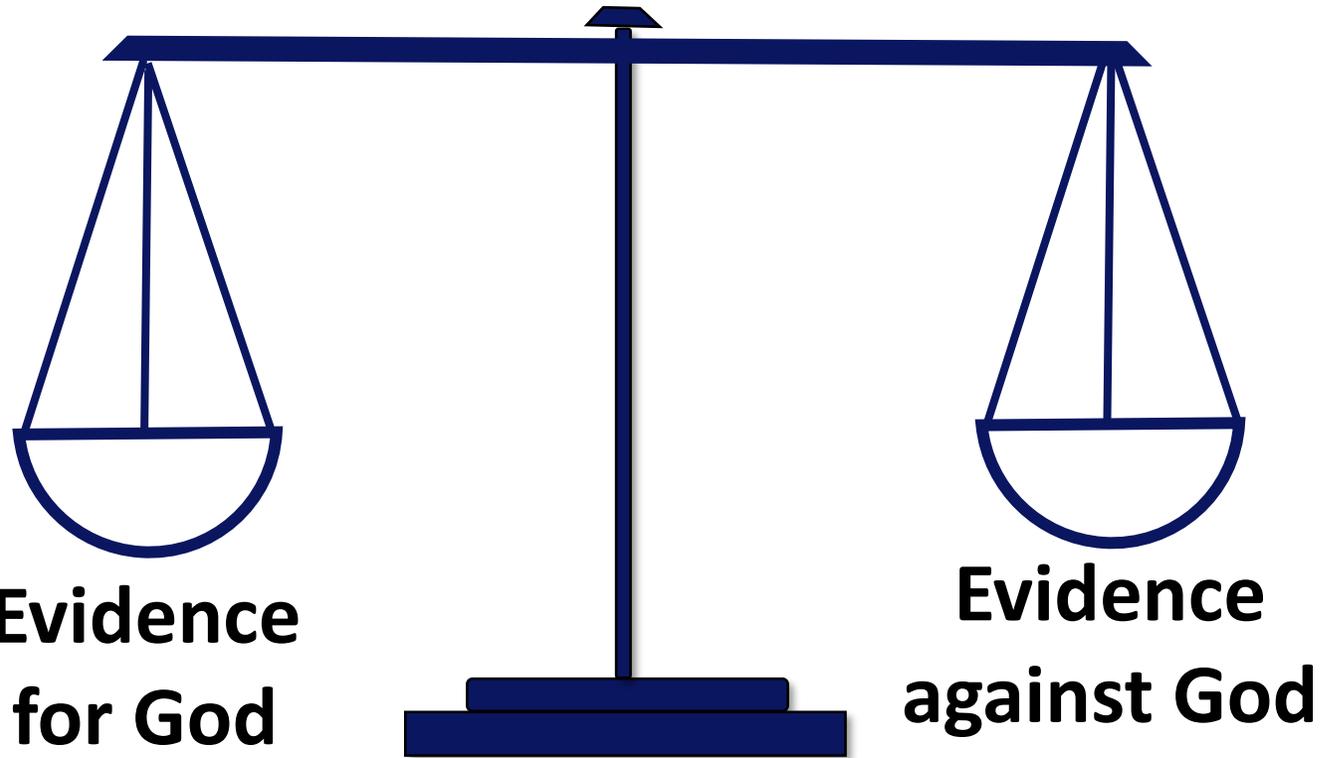


As we age, we begin learning through our thinking, and not merely our sensing



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

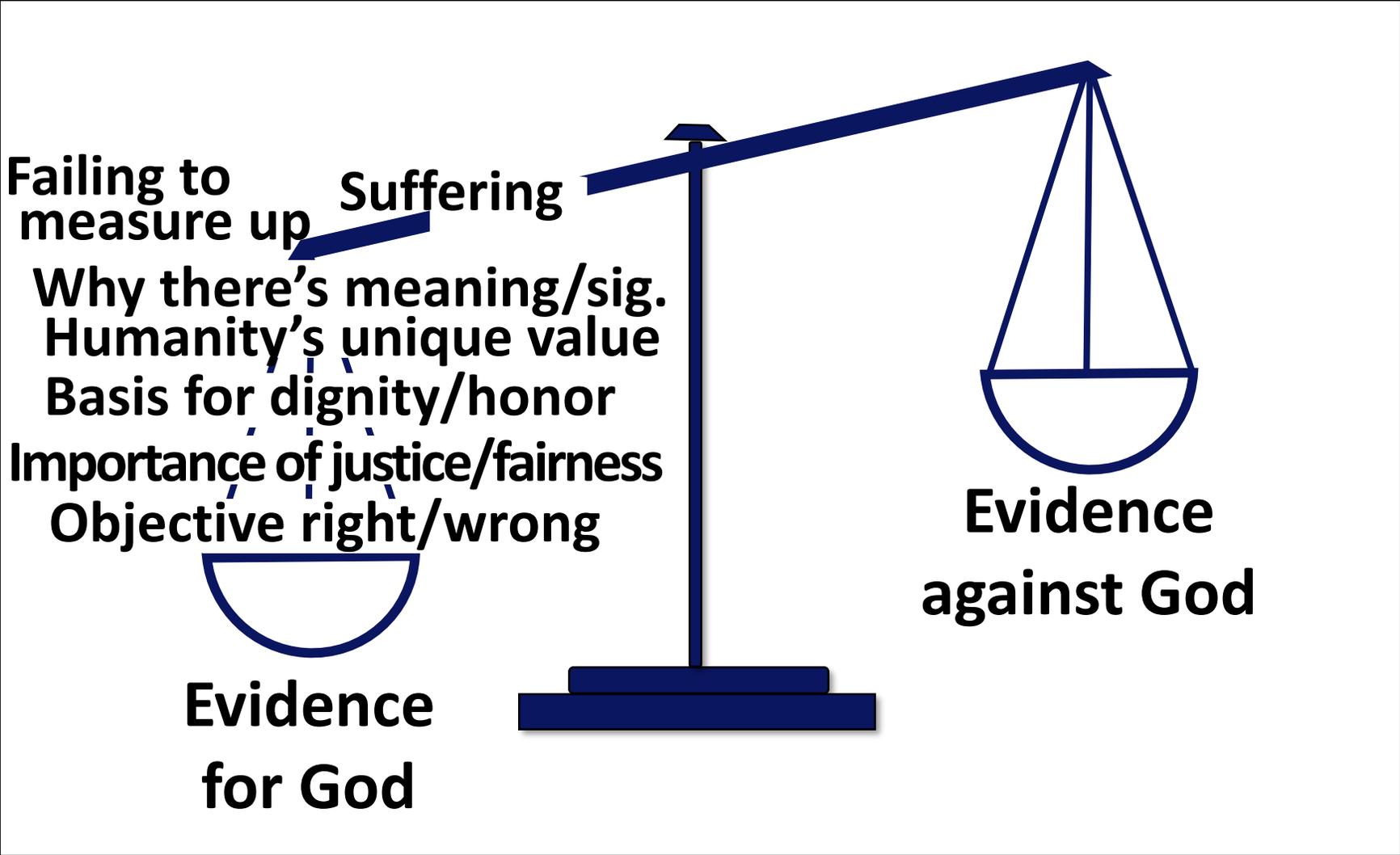
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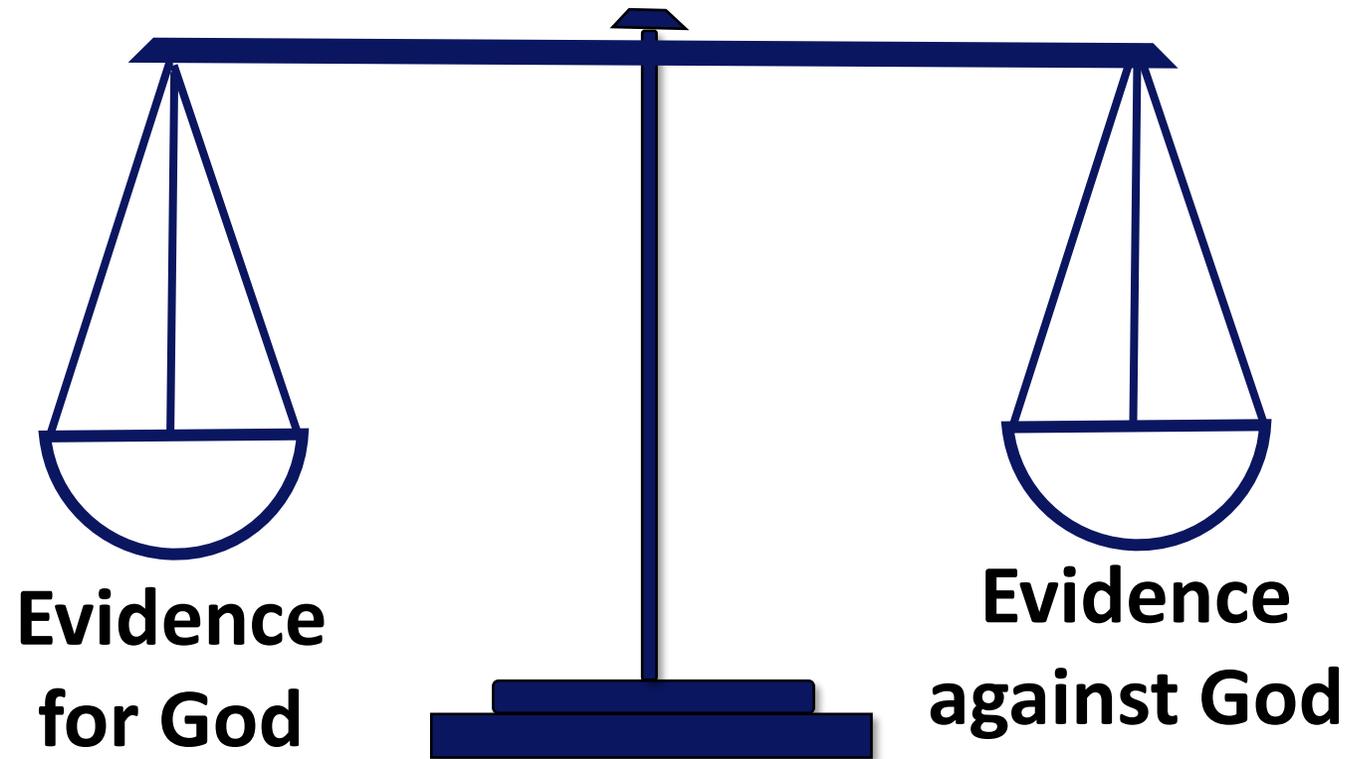
## Negative Perceptions

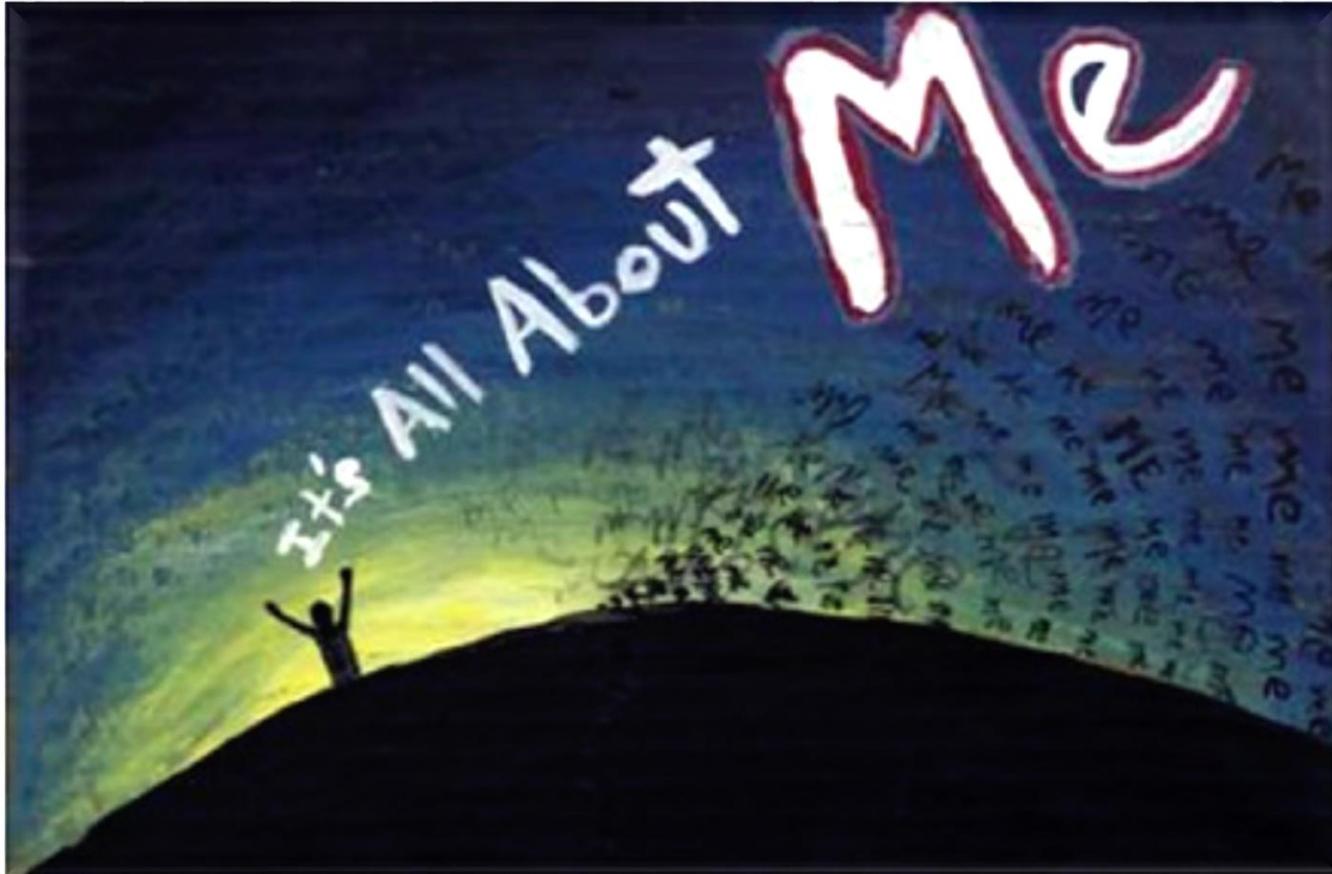
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# Weighing the Evidence



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





**Beware:**  
**narcissism**  
**at play!!!**



**We turn the creation story on its head**



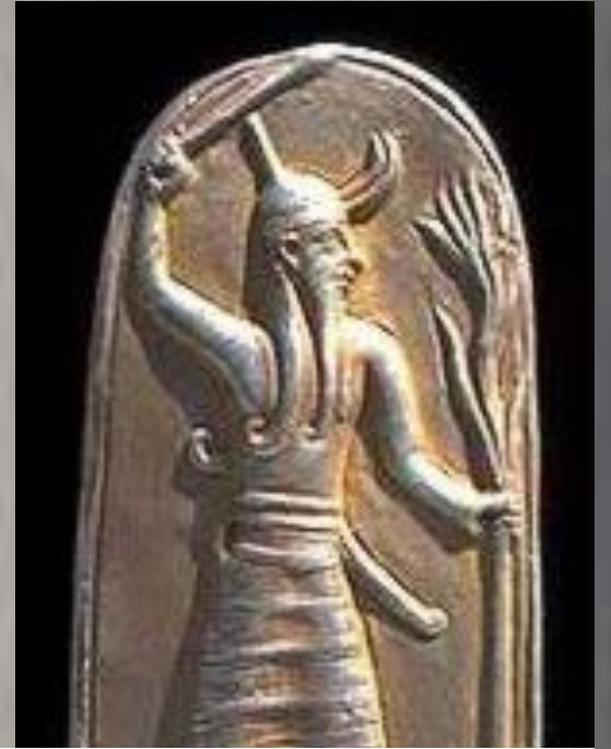
**We turn the creation story on its head**





**Israel was given a unique revelation about God**



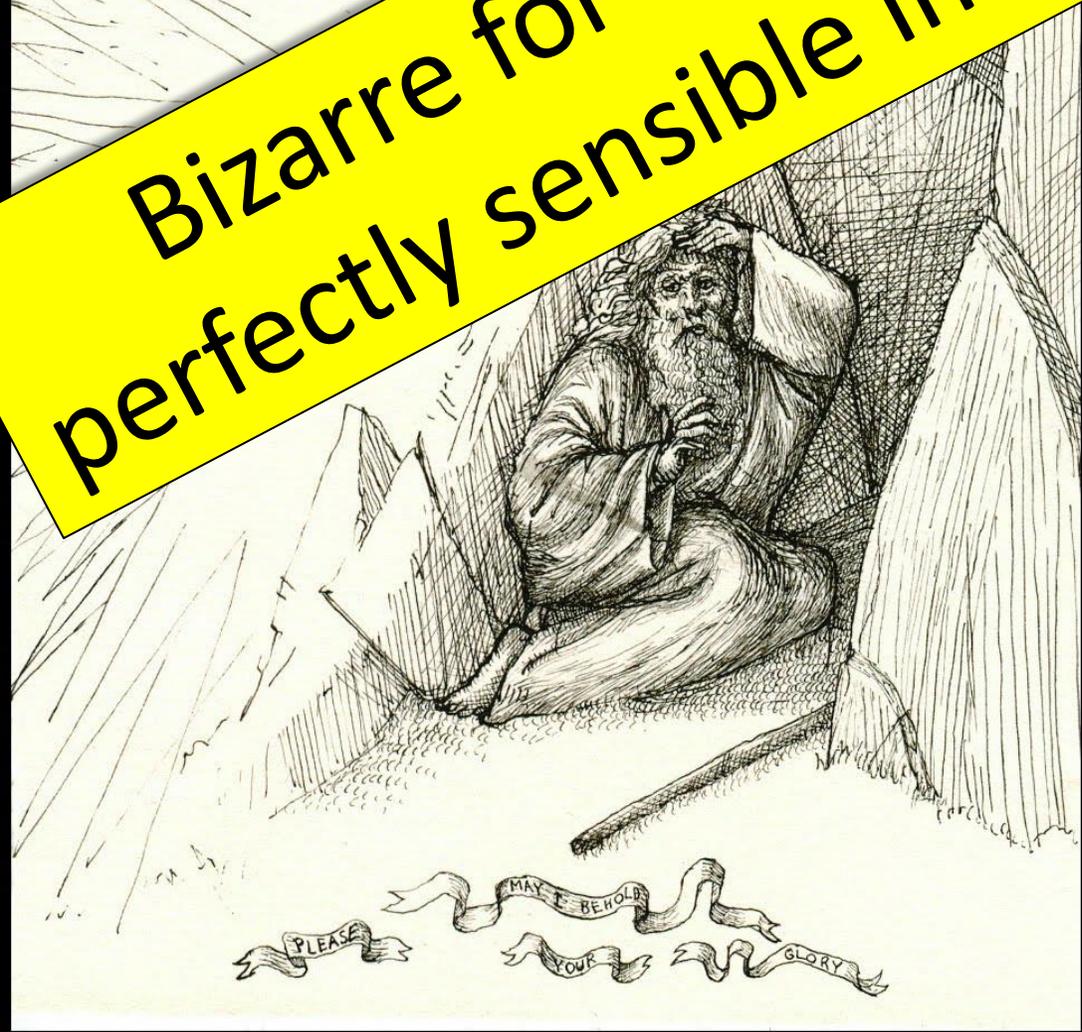


You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth – Ex. 20:3-4



“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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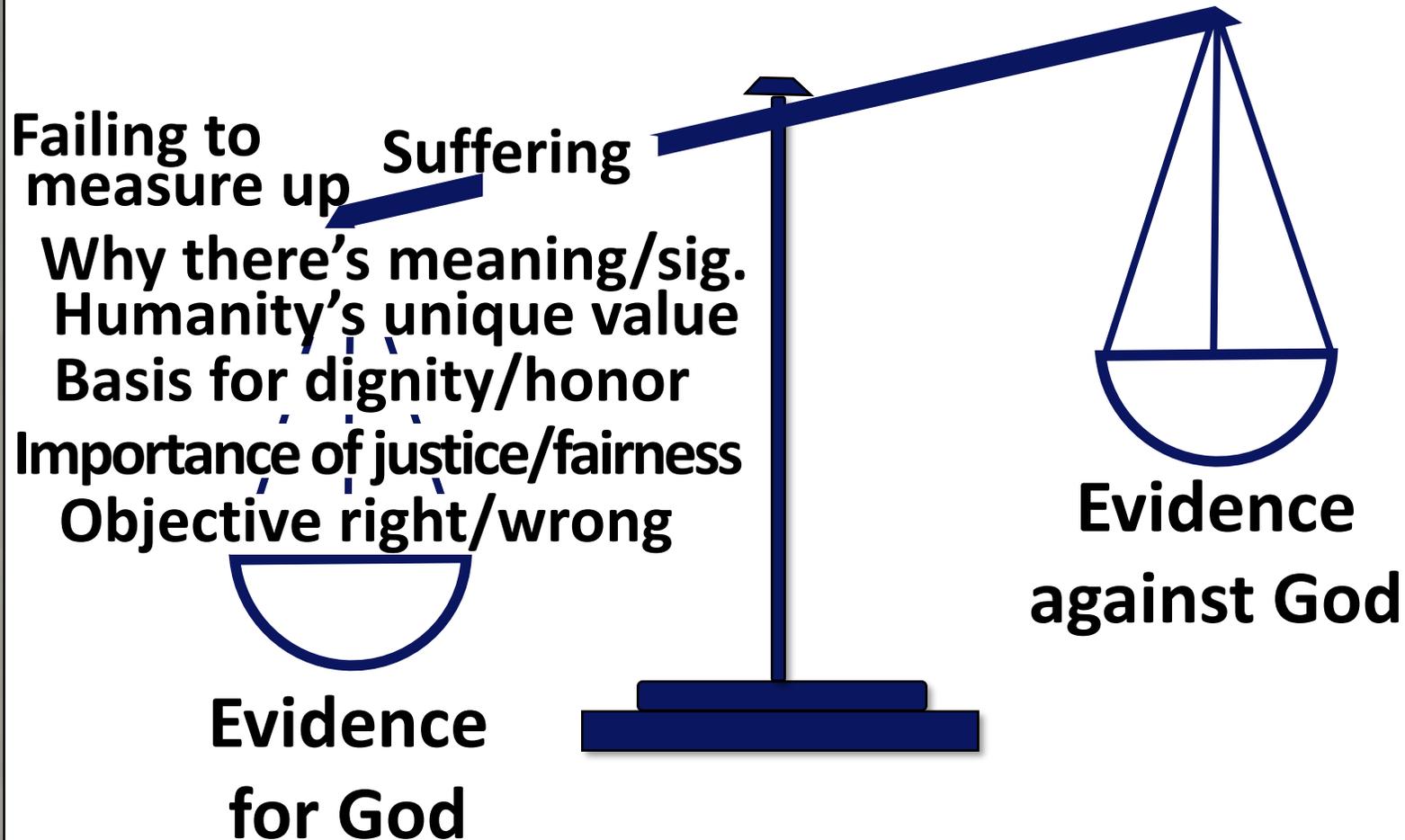
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Phil. 2:6-7

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

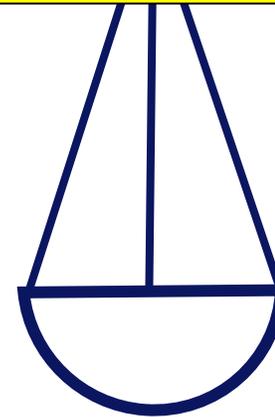
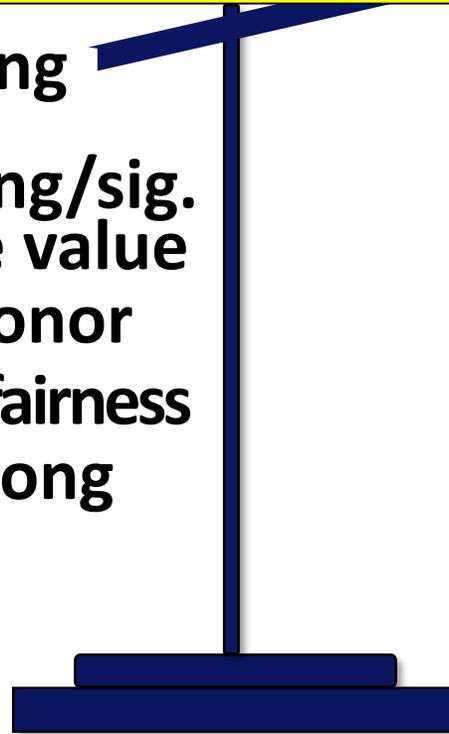
Failing to  
measure up

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

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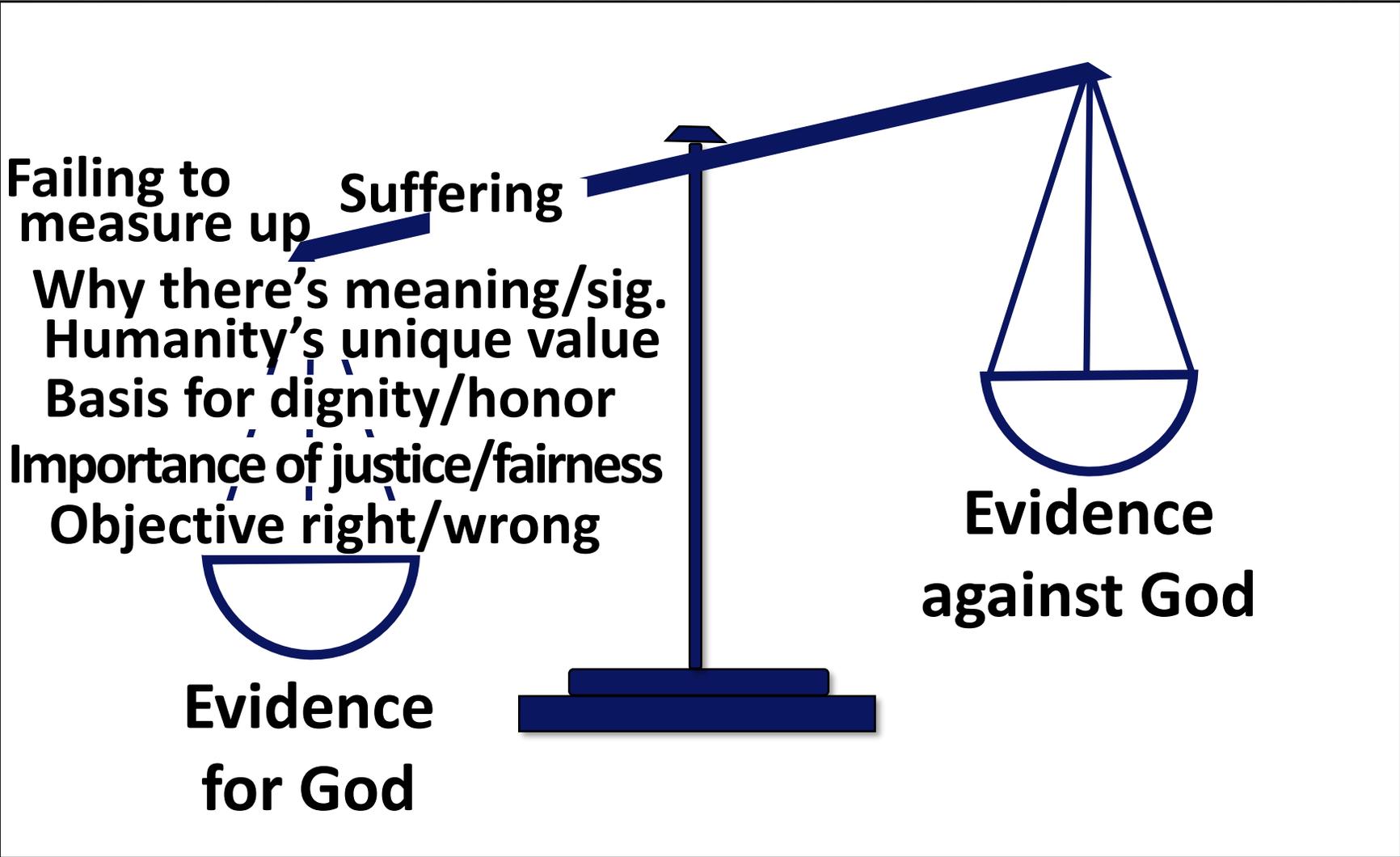
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# Why do so many prayer go unanswered?





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



?

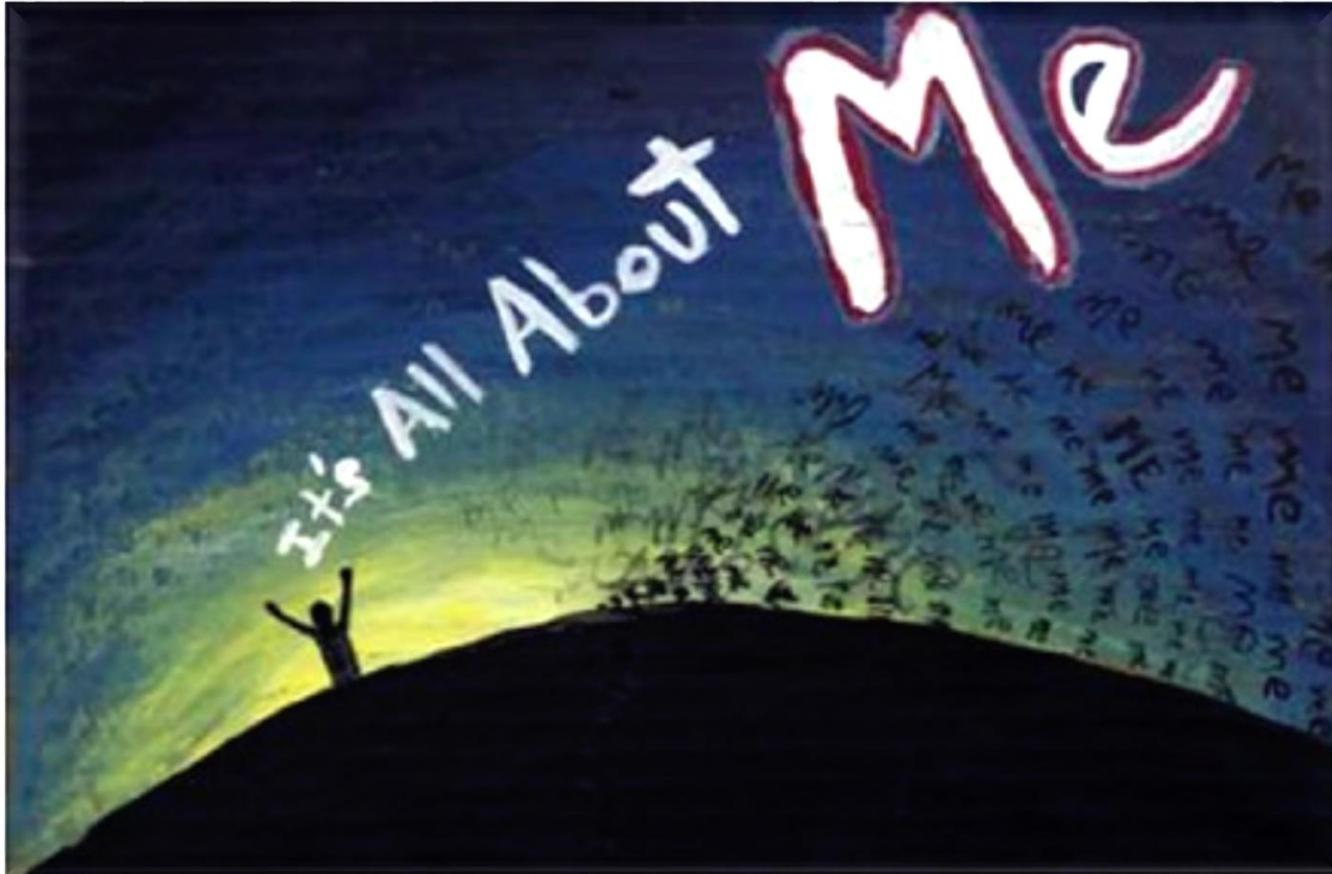
What is the **purpose** of prayer?

?

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.

?

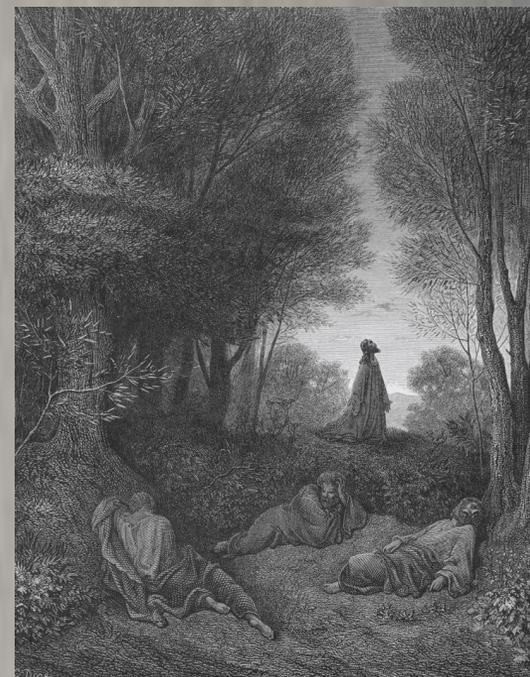
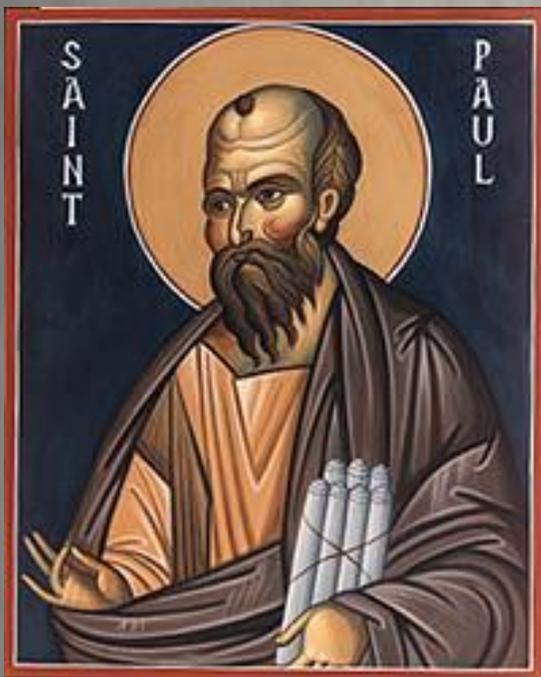
Are there **limits** to prayer?



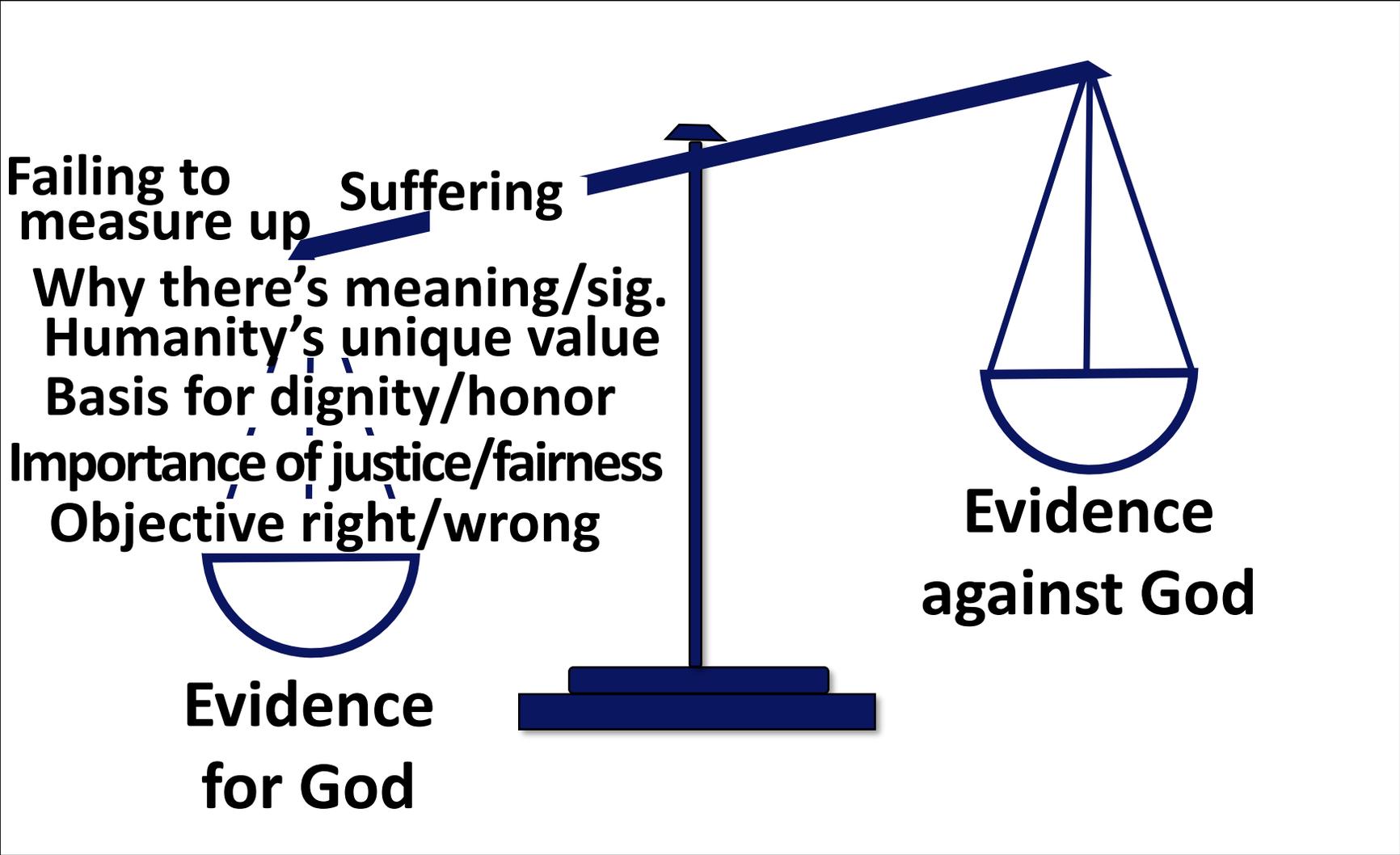
**Of course!  
God is God, not  
our genie**

?

Are there **limits** to prayer?



# Why do so many prayer go unanswered?



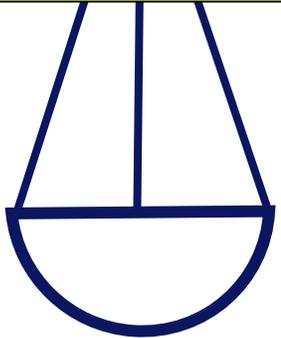
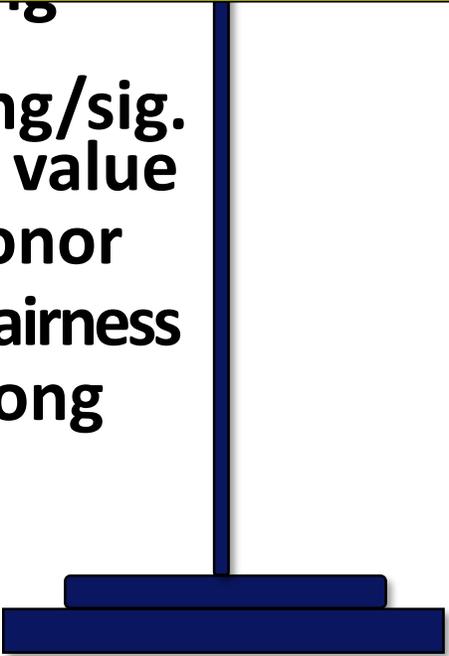
# Why do so many prayer go unanswered?

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

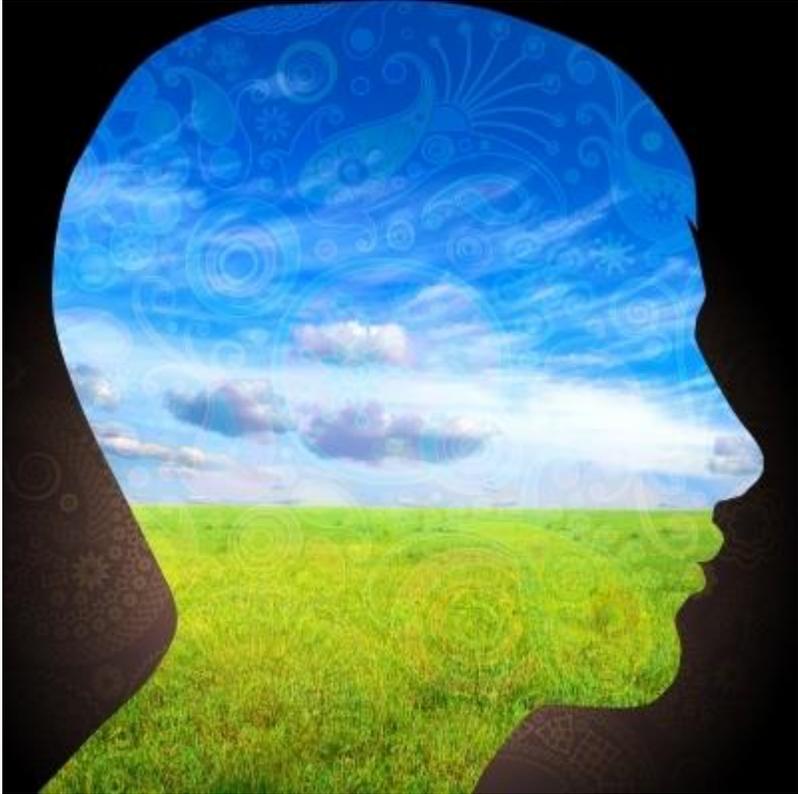


Evidence  
for God

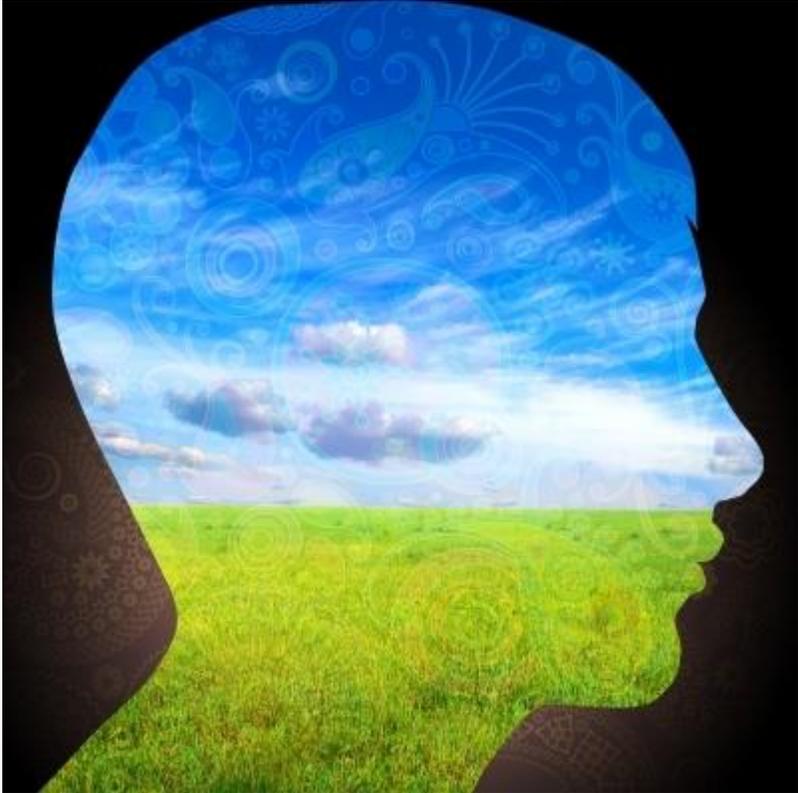


Evidence  
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# Points for home

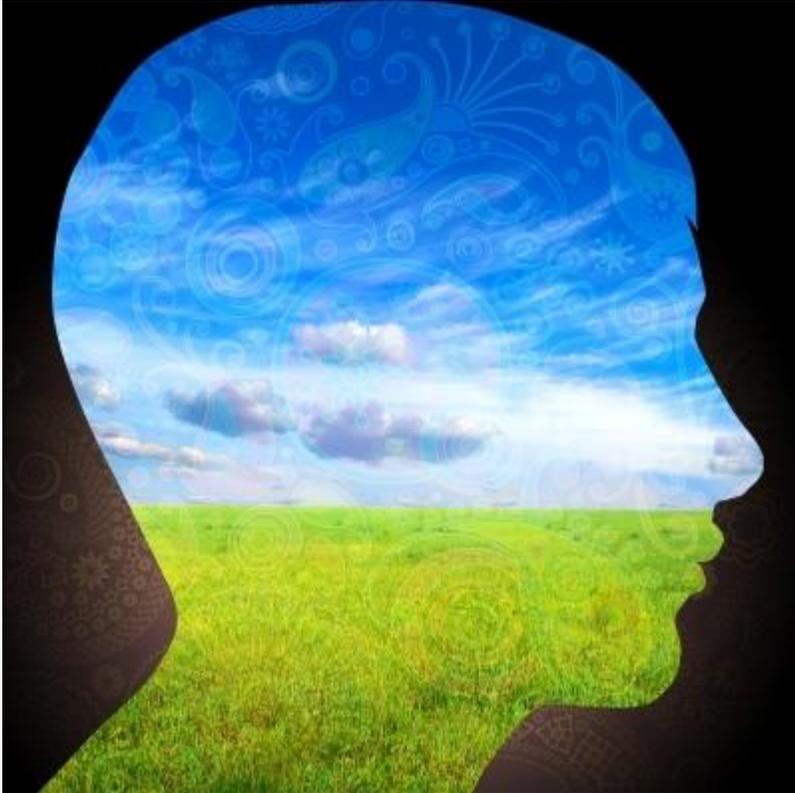


## Points for home



*“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)*

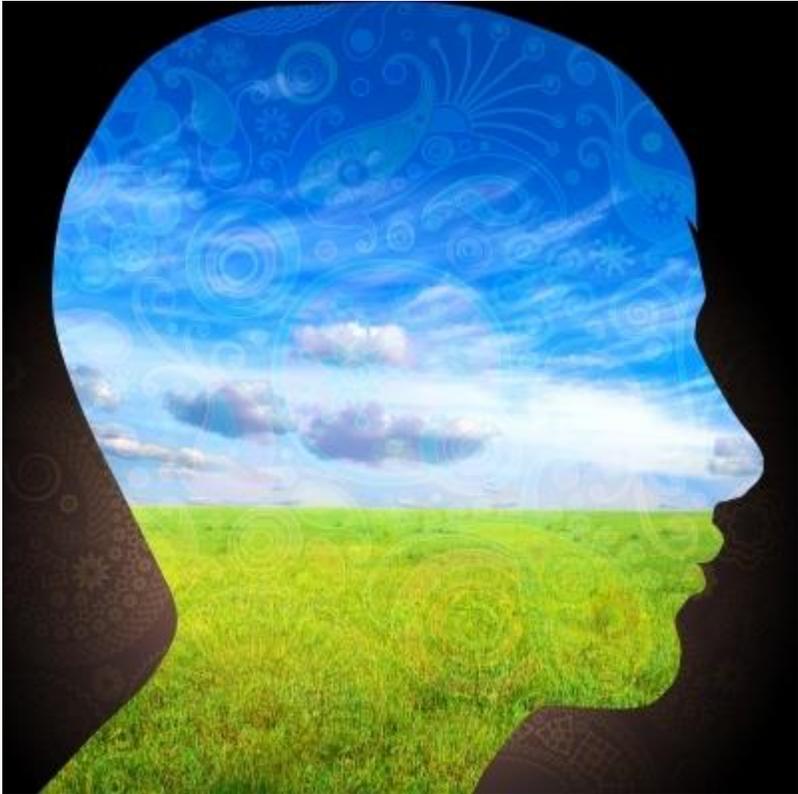
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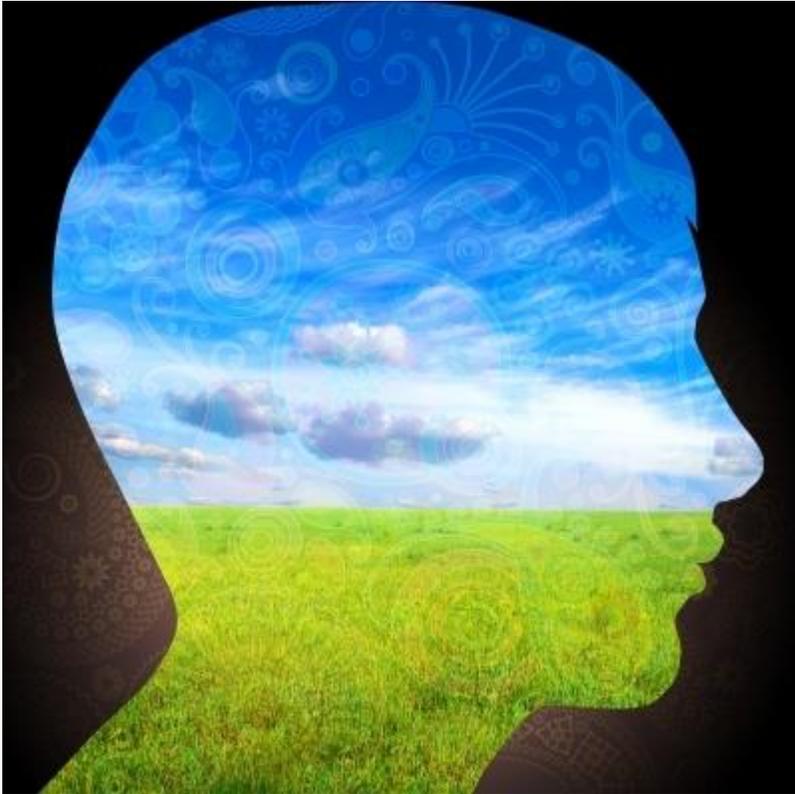
**I'm going to learn more of God**

## Points for home



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

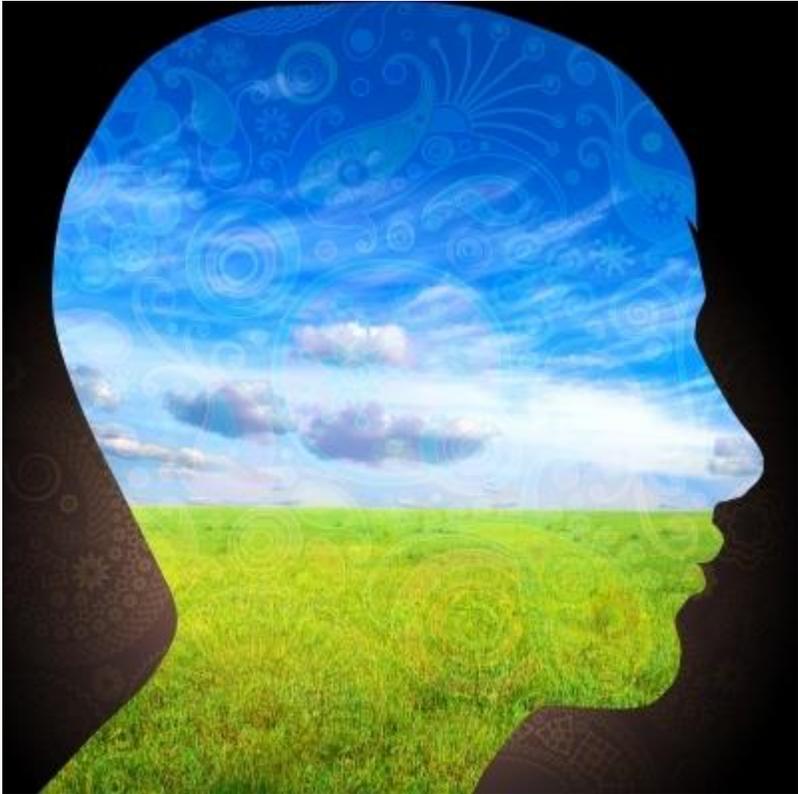
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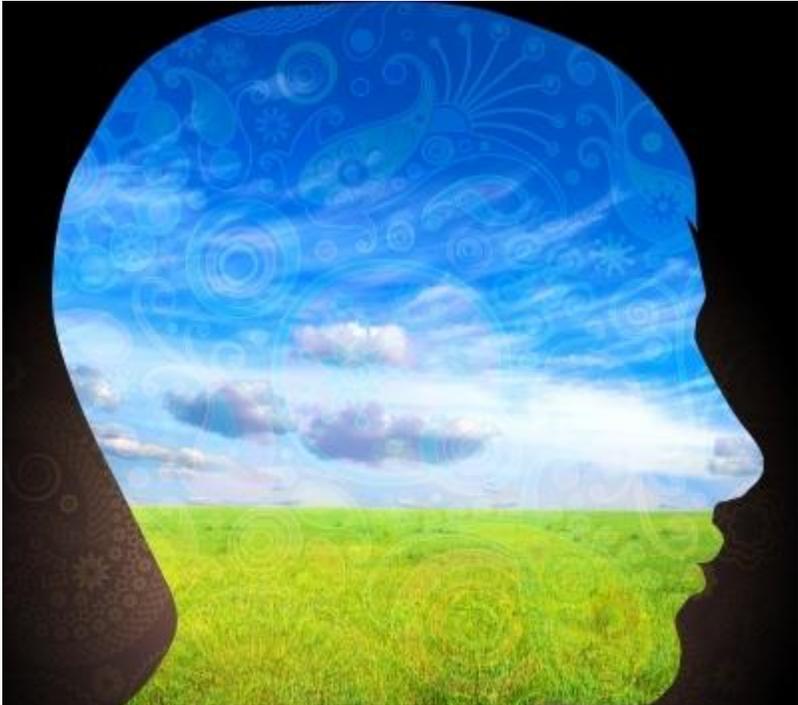
**I'm going to pray God's will  
more intentionally**

## 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

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