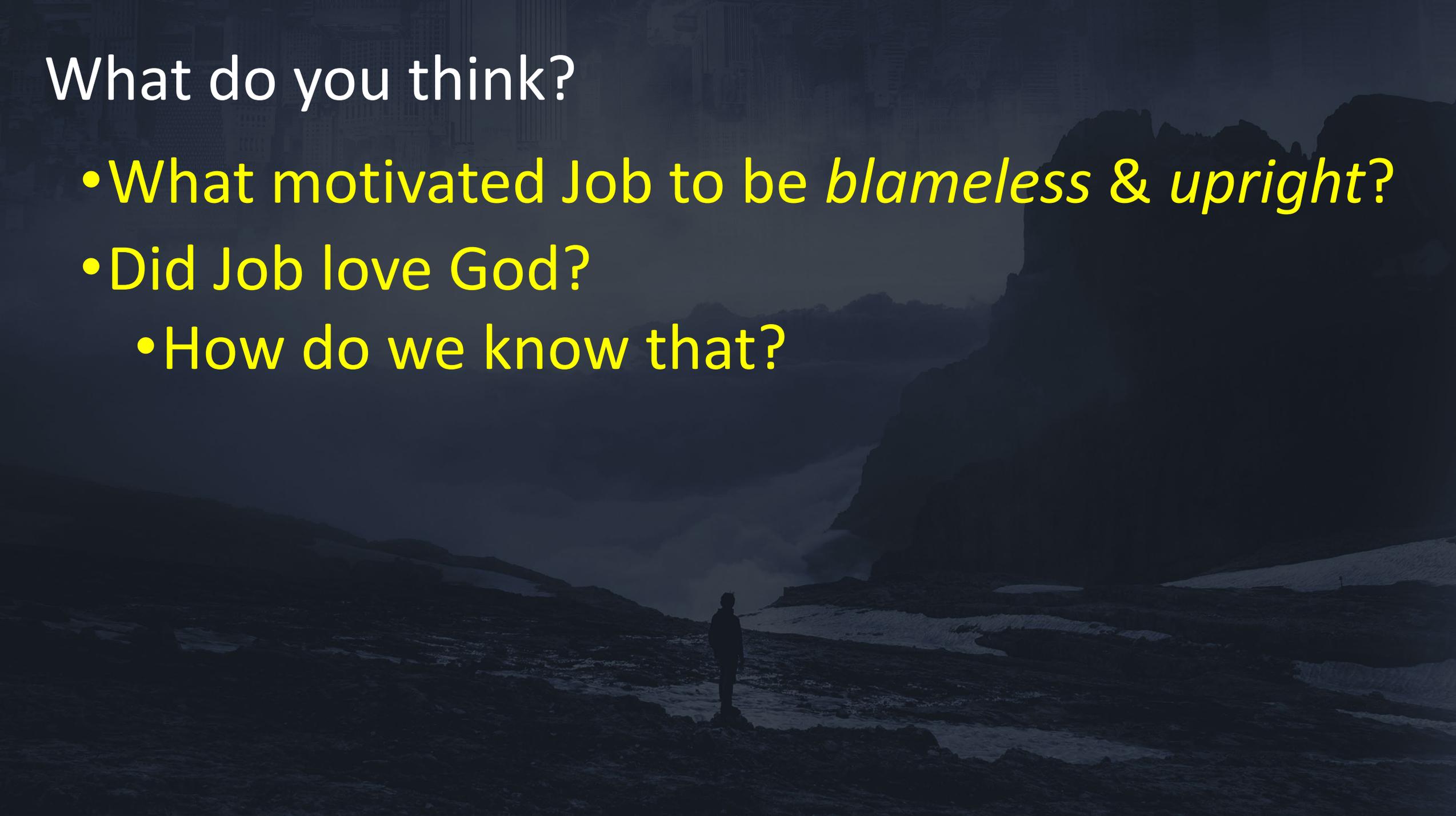


# What do you think?

- What motivated Job to be *blameless & upright*?
- Did Job love God?
  - How do we know that?





# Loving God No Matter What

*A Brief Look at  
the Story of Job*

# The Main Arguments

- Round 1:

- *Friends*: “God always punishes the wicked.”

- Round 2:

- *Friends*: “The wicked always suffer.”

- Round 3:

- *Friends*: “Just admit *you are wicked!*”

## Chap. 22 - Eliphaz

- “Repent before it’s too late”
  - “Is there any pleasure to the Almighty if you are righteous?” (2-11)
    - “Your righteous or unrighteousness does not affect God; *you reap what you sow!*”
  - “Who are you to question God?” (12-20)
  - “*Please* return and be restored!” (21-30)

## Chaps. 23-24 – Job

- “But look at all the *injustice* in the world”
  - “Oh that I knew where to find Him” (23:2-9)
  - “A court trial would vindicate me” (23:10-12)
  - “God is sovereign (i.e. - *fickle*)” (23:13-17)
  - “Where is this *justice* you claim?” (24:1-17)
  - “The wicked prosper *and* suffer” (24:18-24)
    - As do the righteous!
  - “Who can prove me a liar?” (24:25)

## Chaps. 23-24 – Job

- In order for the ‘wicked’ to be *wicked* there must be ‘victims’ (e.g. - 22:6-9; 24:13-17)
- Yet God does not stop their wickedness! (24:12)  
– i.e. – *the victims suffer*
- If all suffering is punishment for sin...
- Then all ‘victims’ must deserve it! (see 8:4)

## Chap. 25 – Bildad

- “No man is pure!”
  - “Respect God as sovereign” (2-3)
  - “How can a man be clean before God?” (4)
  - “Man is a maggot or worm!” (5-6)
- Bildad cannot refute what Job said (24:25), so instead he simply repeats himself (again)
  - His assertions may be true, but are irrelevant
- Where is Zophar?

## Chap. 26 – Job

- “Is that all you have for me, Bildad?”
  - “You have been *such a great help!*” (2-4)
  - “I know God, too” (5-14)
    - He rules over death (5-6)
    - He rules the sky and space (7-10)
    - He rules the earth (11-13)
    - These are only small glimpses (14)

# Chaps. 27-28 – Job’s Discourse (Part 1)

- “You (all) are so wrong!”
  - “I swear by God I am blameless” (27:2-6)
  - “Watch out for God’s justice” (27:7-12)
    - You are worms, too!
    - You wrongly accuse an innocent man
  - “God surely punishes the wicked” (27:13-23)
    - Either now or later

## Chap. 27 – Job

- Does Job teach *self-righteousness*? (27:5-6)
- Did Job's righteousness come from his obedience?
  - Did Job obey God?
  - *WHY* did Job obey God?



## Chap. 27 – Job

- Does Job teach *self-righteousness*? (27:5-6)
- Does *obedience = legalism*?
  - Faith in God results in obedience to God (see Hebrews 11; Prov. 22:17-21)
  - Legalism makes its own standard of righteousness, apart from God's intent
    - E.g. – *the Sabbath*

# Chaps. 27-28 – Job’s Discourse (Part 1)

- “Let’s talk about wisdom”
  - “Wisdom cannot be discovered” (28:1-11)
  - “Wisdom cannot be purchased” (28:12-19)
  - “God alone knows it” (28:20-28)
    - “For man, to fear God *is* wisdom” (28; 1:1)
    - Later: “The fear of the Lord *is the beginning of* wisdom...” (Ps. 110:11; Prov. 9:10)

# So What?

- Learn the *Fear of the Lord* (e.g. – Ps. 34:11-14)
  - Connected with of loving God (Deut. 10:12-13)
  - It is demonstrated by obedience (see *Proverbs*)
    - Pursue holiness
    - Shun / avoid / hate evil (e.g. – Prov. 8:13)
- It leads to *real life* (Prov. 19:23)

# *The Fear of the Lord*

- Recognize God as Creator
  - Acknowledge our creatureliness -> *humility*
- Recognize God as Provider
- Recognize God as Sovereign
  - Submit to His will
  - Submit to His standards of holiness
- Respond with veneration and awe