

Is God a Credible Healer? Challenge to Spiritual Medicine

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Most people recognize the presence of a mysterious power in the universe which influences our lives. God has many names and presentations, which I have discussed in "Realizing God for the Future". My primary analysis suggests at least one useful hypothesis to test the effects of spiritual healing under promising current investigation; our familiar Abrahamic Monotheistic God has been analyzed into the familiar spiritual elements of love, truthfulness, reverence for life, compassion, mercy, hope, loving-kindness, justice, faith and other well accepted virtuous spirits. (Even personal eschatology could foster a hypothesis bearing on one's Hopefulness.) I propose an inquiry where each of these spirits be considered an independent variable with which to study and measure outcomes in studies of the effects of spiritual healing upon specific patient illnesses. These data would buttress currently published measures of religiosity. Heretofore piety, church attendance and conformity with religious rules have been used to correlate clinical outcome with religious faith because they are objective measures. The appropriate instruments to measure Belief in God would be a preliminary conversation or interview, followed by a graded questionnaire which to sample a patient's 1.General Beliefs, 2.Responses to FAQ/LQ, frequently asked metaphysical questions about religion and life , and 3.Lastly a structured objective set of questions in the style of a religious MMPI. This work has been drafted preliminarily others as well as myself .