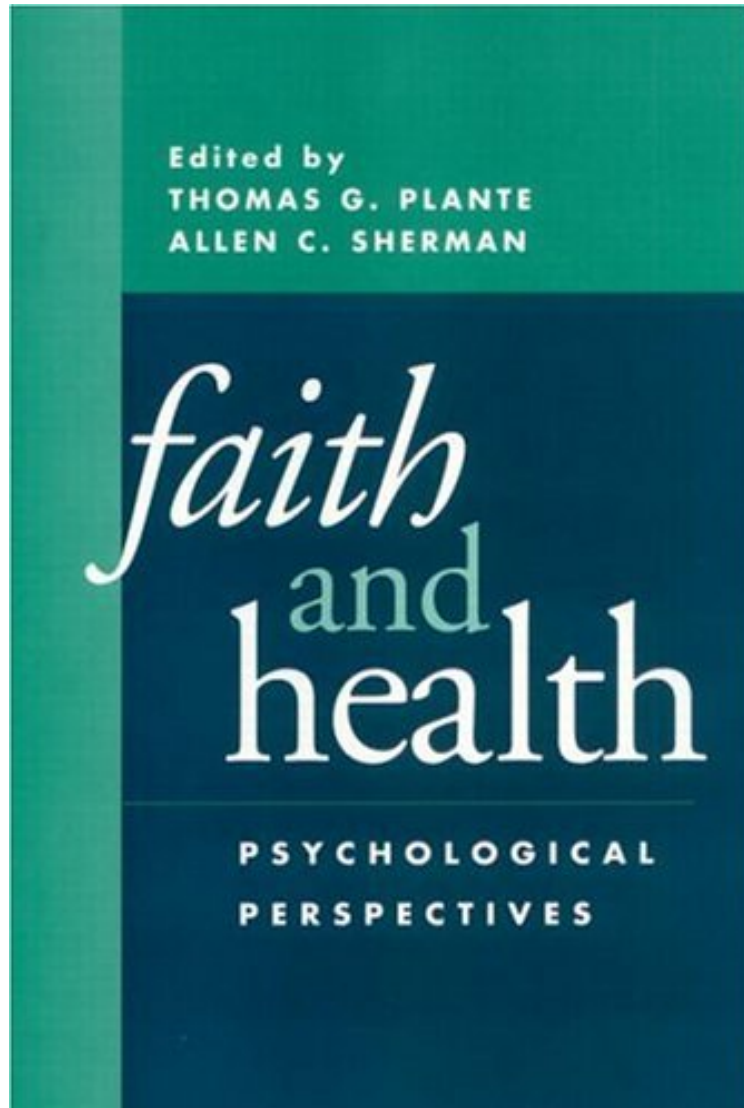


(Download pdf) Faith and Health: Psychological Perspectives

## Faith and Health: Psychological Perspectives

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This volume reviews and integrates the growing body of contemporary psychological research on the links between religious faith and health outcomes. It presents up-to-date findings from empirical studies of populations ranging from healthy individuals to those with specific clinical problems, including cancer, HIV/AIDS, and psychological disorders. Drawing on multiple perspectives in psychology, the book examines such critical questions as the impact of religious practices on health behaviors and health risks; the role played by faith in adaptation to illness or disability; and possible influences on physiological functioning and mortality. Chapters reflect the close collaboration of the editors and contributing authors, who discuss commonalities and differences in their work, debate key methodological concerns, and outline a cohesive agenda for future research.

"...a very useful compendium....Faith and Health provides food (manna?) for thought and for reflection and the editors should be complimented for the care with which they have defined the problems. The book will provide a valuable summary of current research and much needed caveats about too much rapture about conclusions."--Medscape "Kudos to Plante, Sherman, and their contributors. This fine volume demonstrates that the study of religion and health is not a passing fancy. Faith and Health presents an up-to-date, comprehensive account of the impressive advances that are taking place in theory, research, and practice. It reveals a field whose landscape is shifting to greater richness and complexity. Wonderfully balanced, the book helps bridge the gap between openness and skepticism, the bitter and the sweet, what we know and what questions remain. This cutting-edge volume should find its place in the library of every student of religion and health."--Kenneth I. Pargament, PhD, Department of Psychology, Bowling Green State University, author of *The Psychology of Religion and Coping: Theory, Research, Practice* "The study of religion, spirituality, and health is one of the most intriguing and controversial areas of health science. This volume provides a much needed survey of progress to date in this field. The book is an ideal introduction to the findings and methodological challenges in the study of religion and health, and will be of great use to researchers and students alike. I highly recommend it."--Norman Anderson, PhD, Professor, Harvard School of Public Health, Former Associate Director, National Institutes of Health "With the emerging interest in positive psychology, the scientific study of religion has resurfaced as a compelling focus for research. And, in this new field, there can be no more fascinating question than whether religious faith influences beliefs, emotions, and behaviors that are relevant to health and illness. Plante and Sherman have assembled an excellent volume that examines the health consequences of religious practice and faith. The range of perspectives is impressive, from the historical to the psychoneuroimmunological, with a strong emphasis on application. This is a book with a broad audience, and I am likely to use it in my undergraduate and graduate courses in the psychology of emotion and health psychology. Allied health professionals will find much of interest here as well."--Peter Salovey, PhD, Department of Psychology, Yale University "This rich and wide-ranging collection of essays offers essential resources for addressing the highly complex issues raised by the search for relationships between religion or spirituality and health. No researcher in the field can afford to be uninformed by the provocative findings, trenchant criticisms, and astute recommendations that fill this volume, just as no practitioner should undertake religion-related interventions without considering the scientific, ethical, and practical issues raised therein."--David M. Wulff, PhD, Department of Psychology, Wheaton College