

Pentecostal perspectives on causes and cures of depression

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Abstrak

Religious beliefs about mental illness represent one potential influence on the choice to utilize or avoid professional help. For example, believing that devout spirituality assures mental health and/or that mental illness indicates spiritual failure may discourage religious individuals from seeking help. Such beliefs have traditionally been attributed to Pentecostals, but no research has assessed this assumption. This study examined Pentecostal perspectives on depression's causes and treatments. Contrary to the Pentecostal theological literature, participants endorsed a variety of causal factors. Regarding cures, however, faith was endorsed as the most effective option. Implications are provided and recommendations are offered to practitioners working with Pentecostals, including consultation and collaboration with clergy and religiously sensitive psychoeducational programs.