With this volume of collected papers on Religion and Coping, the authors continue and deepen their work on mental health and the religious dimension in coping. They address a pivotal topic not only for the psychology of religion but also for psychology in general and clinical psychology in particular.

The range of the topics is broad: it includes methodological questions, the development and testing of new instruments (the so-called Receptivity Scale and the Mature Religiosity Scale), the importance of ritual and prayer, personality and narcissism and the implications for practitioners. The variety of subjects is also impressive. The authors apply and test their theories within a forensic psychiatric hospital, with cancer patients, with students, with Christian parishioners and with outpatients and inpatients of different institutions.

Unlike other researchers in the field of religion and coping the authors of this book consider two important aspects of the field. Firstly, they acknowledge that religion is not always and automatically good but can be maladaptive regarding mental health and well-being. Secondly, the authors adapt the theory of religious coping to an increasingly secular society in Western Europe. Therefore they expand the concept to a perspective of spiritual coping and in this way address the current changes in worldview construction in modern societies.

Putting the pieces together: this series of papers is an excellent book for diving into current perspectives, problems, results and implications of the field of ‘Religion and Coping’. Professionals in the medical domain, pastoral counselors and researchers in the field will profit alike.

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Knockin’ on Heaven’s Door

Religious and Receptive Coping in Mental Health
International Series in Mental Health and Religion

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