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Aging and God: Spiritual Pathways to Mental Health in Midlife and Later Years

By William M Clements, Harold G Koenig



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Aging and God: Spiritual Pathways to Mental Health in Midlife and Later Years By William M Clements, Harold G Koenig

This important book examines the relationship between religion and mental health throughout the life cycle, with a special emphasis on later life. It asserts that successful aging is possible regardless of physical health or environmental circumstances, and that religious beliefs and behaviors may facilitate successful aging. *Aging and God* thoroughly examines the effects of religion and mental health on aging and provides a centralized resource of up-to-date references of research in the field. It focuses on recent findings, theoretical issues, and implications for clinical practice and contains ideas for further research. In *Aging and God*, you'll also find information on project design that can help you develop grant applications and carry out studies. *Aging and God* is a helpful book for both mental health and religious professionals. It helps mental health specialists better understand the spiritual needs of older adults and the impact that religion can have on facilitating mental health. It also describes how religion can be utilized in clinical practice and integrated into psychotherapeutic approaches to older patients. The book brings religious professionals current knowledge of the major psychological problems that older adults face and how religion can be used to help alleviate these problems. Full of pertinent information, *Aging and God*

- addresses theoretical aspects of human development, focusing on cognitive, moral, and religious faith development
 - examines situations and disorders of particular concern to older persons and looks at how religion can be used as a resource
 - applies research findings to the problem of meeting the spiritual and mental health needs of elders with chronic or acute health problems
 - provides an in-depth look at end-of-life issues such as physician-assisted suicide
- Hospital and nursing home chaplains will find this book informative and encouraging, as will gerontologists, hospital administrators, and community clergy faced with increasingly older congregations. It gives mental health professionals new strategies to help improve the later years of older adults, and makes an excellent text for courses on religion, mental health, and aging. Middle-aged and older adults, as well as their families, will also find *Aging and God* enjoyable and inspiring as they attempt to grapple with the myriad adjustment and coping problems associated with aging.



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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Koenig (Duke Univ. Medical Ctr.) provides an important and comprehensive study of religion and psychiatry/psychology, especially as they impact on the elderly. Koenig believes that religion is an important and underused resource in helping the elderly live successfully. After examining the relationship between religion and mental health sciences, he discusses human development theories in terms of spirituality. He also explores practical issues, clinical applications, and issues concerned with dying. Comprehensive, humane, knowledgeable, and broad in scope, this book is essential for seminary and medical libraries and highly recommended for public and academic collections as well.

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