

# SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT INVENTORY

## Reference:

Hall, T. W. & Edwards, K. J. (2002). The spiritual Assessment Inventory: A theistic model and measure for assessing spiritual development. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, 41*, 341-357.

## Description of Measure:

A 49-item measure of spirituality. The inventory has 5 factors: Awareness of God (19 items), Disappointment in Relationship with God (7 items), Realistic Acceptance of God (7 items), Grandiosity in Relationship with God (7 items), and Instability in Relationship with God (9 items). The scale also includes an impression management component (5 items) used to gauge the reliability of the respondent's answers.

Respondents rate each item on a 5-point scale: 1 (not at all true), 2 (slightly true), 3 (moderately true), 4 (substantially true), and 5 (very true).

## Abstracts of Selected Related Articles:

Hill, P. C. & Pargament, K. I. (2003) Advances in the conceptualization and measurement of religion and spirituality. *American Psychologist, 58*, 64-74.

Empirical studies have identified significant links between religion and spirituality and health. The reasons for these associations, however, are unclear. Typically, religion and spirituality have been measured by global indices (e.g., frequency of church attendance, self-rated religiousness and spirituality) that do not specify how or why religion and spirituality affect health. The authors highlight recent advances in the delineation of religion and spirituality concepts and measures theoretically and functionally connected to health. They also point to areas for growth in religion and spirituality conceptualization and measurement. Through measures of religion and spirituality more conceptually related to physical and mental health (e.g., closeness to God, religious orientation and motivation, religious support, religious struggle), psychologists are discovering more about the distinctive contributions of religiousness and spirituality to health and well-being.

Hall, T. W., Reise, S. P., & Haviland, M. G. (2007). An item response theory analysis of the Spiritual Assessment Inventory. *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion, 17*, 157-178.

Item response theory (IRT) was applied to evaluate the psychometric properties of the Spiritual Assessment Inventory (SAI; Hall & Edwards, 1996, 2002). The SAI is a 49-item self-report questionnaire designed to assess five aspects of spirituality: Awareness of God, Disappointment (with God), Grandiosity (excessive self-importance), Realistic Acceptance (of God), and Instability (in one's relationship to God). IRT analysis revealed that for several scales: (a) two or three items per scale carry the psychometric workload and (b) measurement precision is peaked for all five scales, such that one end of the



scale, and not the other, is measured precisely. We considered how sample homogeneity and the possible quasi-continuous nature of the SAI constructs may have affected our results and, in light of this, made suggestions for SAI revisions, as well as for measuring spirituality, in general.

Hall, T. W & Edwards, K. J. (1996). The initial development of and factor analysis of the Spiritual Assessment Inventory. *Journal of Psychology and Theology*, 24, 233-246.

Reports the development and factor analyses of a Judeo-Christian theory-based measure of spiritual maturity. The Spiritual Assessment Inventory (SAI) integrates relational maturity from an object relations perspective and experiential God-awareness based on New Testament teaching and contemplative spirituality principles. A pool of items was developed to measure hypothesized dimensions of spiritual maturity related to awareness and quality of relationship with God. Two factor analytic construct validity studies were conducted. Based on the first study with 193 undergraduates, the SAI was revised and expanded. In the second study with 470 undergraduates, 5 factors were identified: Awareness, Instability, Grandiosity, Realistic Acceptance, and Defensiveness/Disappointment. Results of the factor analyses and correlations of the factors with the Bell Object Relations Inventory support the underlying theory and validity of the SAI and its potential usefulness for clinical assessment and research.

**Scale: Contact author for permission to use items.**

