

Annotated Bibliography

Cameron Sentieri

February 15, 2026

References

- [1] John R Finney and H Newton Malony Jr. Empirical studies of christian prayer: A review of the literature. *Journal of Psychology and Theology*, 13(2):104–115, 1985.

This article aims to shed more light on the relationship between psychology and religion by conducting research on prayer, specifically Christian prayer. It's based on a dissertation written by Finney and chaired by Malony at Fuller Seminary, a famous seminary school in California. The paper starts by defining prayer and then it categorizes prayer into two different types, Prophetic, or Verbal, and Mystical, or Contemplative, prayer. Mystical Prayer is characterized by silent attentiveness to God and Prophetic Prayer is said to be a spontaneous expression of emotion. They move into empirical studies on prayer by looking at different motivations for praying and the effects of Verbal and Contemplative prayer. This paper will be useful to me because it talks about one of the most important spiritual disciplines for a Christian, Prayer. It even breaks it into the different types, which is important because being silent and offering complete attentiveness to a invisible deity is extremely challenging.

- [2] Alexis Hiniker and Jacob O. Wobbrock. Reclaiming attention: Christianity and HCI. *Interactions*, 29(4):40–44, June 2022.

This article explores the intersection of Christianity and Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Design. It discusses the need for HCI Designers to consider the spiritual and ethical implications of their work, and how designs capture and keep users' attention. The authors introduce ways that technology can take away from humans relationships with God and others. They claim that a relationship with God involves slowing down, pausing, and being present, which is often at odds with the fast-paced nature of technology. Of course, relationships with others are also important, and the article discusses how technology can both help and hinder these relationships. The authors suggest that HCI Designers can focus on creating technology that encourages mindfulness, presence, and deeper connections with God and others by prioritizing relationship centric design principles. This article interests me because it talks about how technology has negatively impacted our relationship with God and others, and

how HCI Designers can help to mitigate these effects through thoughtful design.

- [3] Teresa K. O’Leary, Elizabeth Stowell, Darley Sackitey, Hye Sun Yun, David Wright, Michael Paasche-Orlow, Timothy Bickmore, and Andrea G. Parker. Church after sunday: supporting everyday well-being through techno-spiritual health interventions. *Interactions*, 29(4):90–93, June 2022.

This article highlights their exploration of the integration of spirituality and health in technology design, as well as showcasing the app they designed for their church partners: Church Connect. They first go into their formative work phases. First they focused on understanding different dimensions of participant church experiences. After that they engaged participants in the design of the preliminary concepts for the app. They talked about the outcomes of the focus groups and said that they found a fundamental relationship between health, community, and spirituality for church members. They then go into some of the features that their focus groups ended up coming up with. Two that the article highlights are, "Scriptural Reflections", and, "Bible Story of the Day". Another one that the article talks about is called the, "Prayer Wall". This article is useful to me because it discusses examples of what’s out there when it comes to apps that are in the genre of spirituality. They’re often content based, and they’re more useful when you engage with them more. I will be able to talk about examples like this to explain the purpose of my research and how it differs from the majority of spirituality apps.

- [4] Amy Roche. *Facilitating spiritual understanding through hermeneutical and critical Bible engagement: What can be learned from the experience of a group of Christians reading the Bible with a course developed from the work of Sandra M. Schneiders?* PhD thesis, Durham University, 2020.
- [5] Dale B Sims. The effect of technology on christianity: Blessing or curse. *Makalah riset, Texas Baptist University*, 2001.

This paper explores the dual nature of technology’s impact on Christianity, examining both its positive contributions and potential drawbacks. It discusses how technology has facilitated the spread of Christian teachings and community building, while also raising concerns about distractions and superficial engagement with faith called, "Cultural Christianity." The Author starts by telling a story about his experience at a church with over 4000 members. At the end of the service, on the way back to his car, someone says to him, "That was quite a production this morning, wasn’t it?". This comment highlights one of the many problems the church has run into with the use of technology. While the paper makes readers aware of how technology has benefited the church, like making the Gospel more accessible to everyone, it also talks about how the use of technology has watered down the message of Christianity. I like this paper because it gives a balanced view of how technology can both help and

hurt Christianity, giving points for both sides which could be useful for me to explain in my research.

- [6] Alex Taylor, Margurite Hook, Jamie Carlson, Siggi Gudergan, and Tomas Falk. Appetite for distraction? a systematic literature review on customer smartphone distraction. *Int. J. Inf. Manag.*, 75(C), April 2024.
- [7] Sara Wolf, Frauke Moerike, Simon Luthe, Ilona Nord, and Jörn Hurtienne. Spirituality at the Breakfast Table: Experiences of Christian online worship services. In *Extended Abstracts of the 2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, CHI EA '22, New York, NY, USA, 2022. Association for Computing Machinery.

This paper investigates the experiences of Christian believers participating in online worship services, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The study takes place in Germany, which saw a 61the pandemic. The authors conducted virtual observations and interviews with eight participants to understand how technology mediates religious experiences. They found that believers live in a field of tension between faith, everyday life, individuality, and community. One participant stated that the experience of a worship service is weakend by the online format, and suggested that a lot of the elements leaned more towards infotainment rather than a worship experience. Another participant expressed their disapproval of the focus on production quality instead of content. Overall, this study suggests that online worship services often fail to meet the needs of believers. This paper is interesting to me because it highlights the challenges of using technology to facilitate religious experiences.