

# Review of: "God's characteristics as reported by near-death experiencers"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The study offers an interesting treatment of testimonies that may be inspiring to others. There is no reason not to trust them.

From my point of view, what is missing in the study is a clearer distinction between the empirical approach and the metaphysical (ontological) implications. Metaphysical (e.g. religious or atheistic or specific philosophical) beliefs are not a scientific consequence of empirical research.

I would suggest to put the present research in the framework of Religious Studies (e.g. William Paden: *Interpreting The Sacred. Ways of Viewing Religion*) which is an empirical science with an anthropological approach. It takes the phenomenon of religion seriously, does not prove or disprove the existence of God or transcendence, and examines the manifestations of human as a religious (or even non-religious) being.

From the point of view of science, then, the study is a stimulating contribution, but it does not speak of what God or Jesus is like, rather speaks of the different accounts of people at the frontiers of life, the sacred texts of religions, official teachings, etc. This, in my opinion, is the point of view where even people with different metaphysical attitudes can work together without wanting to impose them on a group with different, or even contradictory, attitudes.