To God All the Glory: Prevalence of and Ways to Express Gratitude to God
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Introduction
• Expressing interpersonal gratitude provides numerous benefits: personal (well-being), social (relationship satisfaction)
• Displays of gratitude to God appear to be common among religious people and are encouraged in Hebrew Bible & New Testament
• Large body of research on interpersonal gratitude (Algoe et al., 2016), but not much on characterizing gratitude to God expressions

Research Questions:
• RQ1: What is the prevalence of gratitude to God expressions among Christians?
• RQ2: How do Christians demonstrate gratitude to God?

Method
• Participants: 696 Christian mTurk workers
• Priming: Randomly assigned to one of two conditions - God prime or Neutral prime
• Success Recall Task: Write about a previous success & express gratitude for it
  • Coders coded for type of target mentioned in gratitude expressions
• Self-reported Variables:
  - Demonstrations of Gratitude Task: Describe strategies of how you express gratitude to God
    • Coder categorized responses into one-word strategies

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coded Targets of Gratitude Expressions</th>
<th>God Prime</th>
<th>Neutral Prime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>God</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Target</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclear</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion
• Following the recall of a success, participants in the God prime condition expressed significantly more gratitude to God than those in the neutral condition
• Christians reported demonstrating their gratitude to God through prayer, compassion, charity, thanks, and worship
• Preliminary results, currently coding
• Future Directions: we plan to characterize further gratitude to God expressions, study their functions, and examine people’s reactions to witnessing them

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