The Relationship Between the Self-Serving Bias and Religious Practices

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One aspect of the self-serving bias, known as the above-average effect, states that people rate themselves in areas of ability or personality traits higher than what is probably more accurate. In wondering whether the above-average effect can be manipulated to produce more accurate depictions of the self, research has supported perceived evaluation of responses, a participant’s region and certain personality types can all influence the bias. If these outside factors can manipulate the self-serving bias, what about religious practices? Religions which teach about humility and the sin of pride may have followers who will be able to rate themselves accurately. The current researchers are then questioning the relationship between a Huntington University participant’s religious practices and the self-serving bias. The preliminary results indicate that there is a relationship between the self-serving bias and a person’s religious practices.