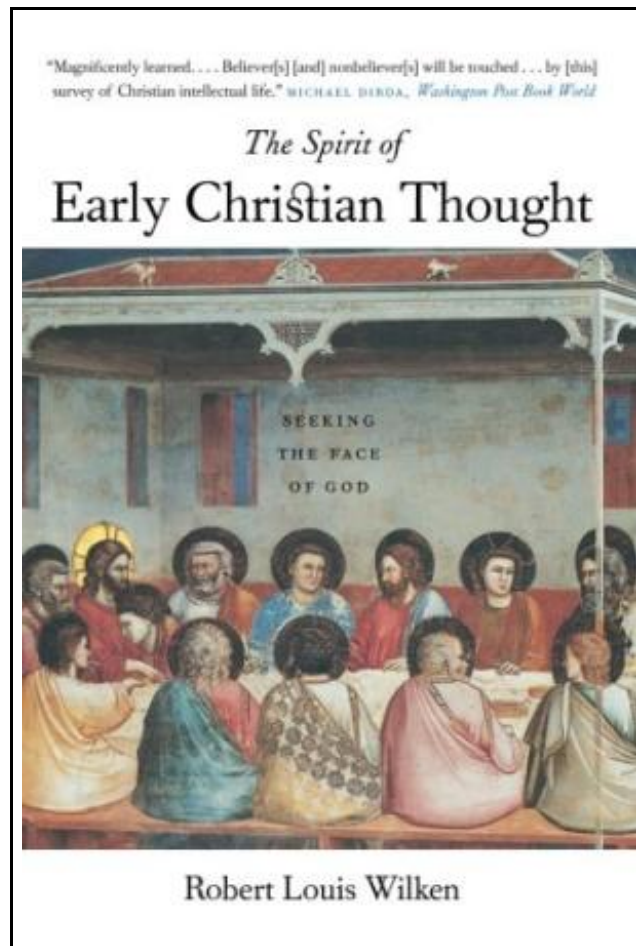


## The Spirit of Early Christian Thought: Seeking the Face of God



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### ***Reviews***

*This type of publication is every thing and helped me seeking ahead and much more. It usually fails to charge too much. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.*

*(Juliet Mertz)*

## THE SPIRIT OF EARLY CHRISTIAN THOUGHT: SEEKING THE FACE OF GOD



Yale University Press March 2005, 2005. Paper Back. Condition: New. Robert Wilken is one of our finest contemporary writers on early Christianity, one who can communicate with a general readership without condescension (the real test of genuine scholarship). He began this book intending to write a history of early Christian apologetics but found in the process that early Christian thought was too large and unique a phenomenon to be limited to a retelling of its responses to Greco-Roman criticisms. The result is this remarkably vivid description of how Christians during the patristic age went about "seeking the face of God." Not surprisingly, the chief avenues trodden by both the great Fathers and average believers were worship, sacraments and the Scriptures; but Wilken brings a contagious immediacy and excitement to his descriptions of these. We stand in assembly before the eucharist as described by Justin Martyr; we see the history of Israel brought into Christian terms through Clement of Alexandria's *Stromateis*; we grasp an emerging "rule" of interpretation in Irenaeus' *Against Heresies*; we ponder raw scriptural data with Hilary and Augustine as they form classical formulations of Trinitarian doctrine, and with Maximus Confessor as he locates in the Gethsemane narrative the vindication of his teaching of two wills in Christ. Brevity requires that we pass over similarly revealing encounters with Gregory of Nyssa, Basil the Great, Origen, John of Damascus and others. "Love itself is a form of knowledge," Gregory the Great is quoted in the epilogue. Primarily through the Fathers' love of Scripture, we can affirm Wilken's own conclusion that "like an inexhaustible spring, faithful and true, they irrigate the Christian imagination with the life-giving water flowing from the biblical and spiritual sources of the faith. They are still our teachers today." 400 pp.



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