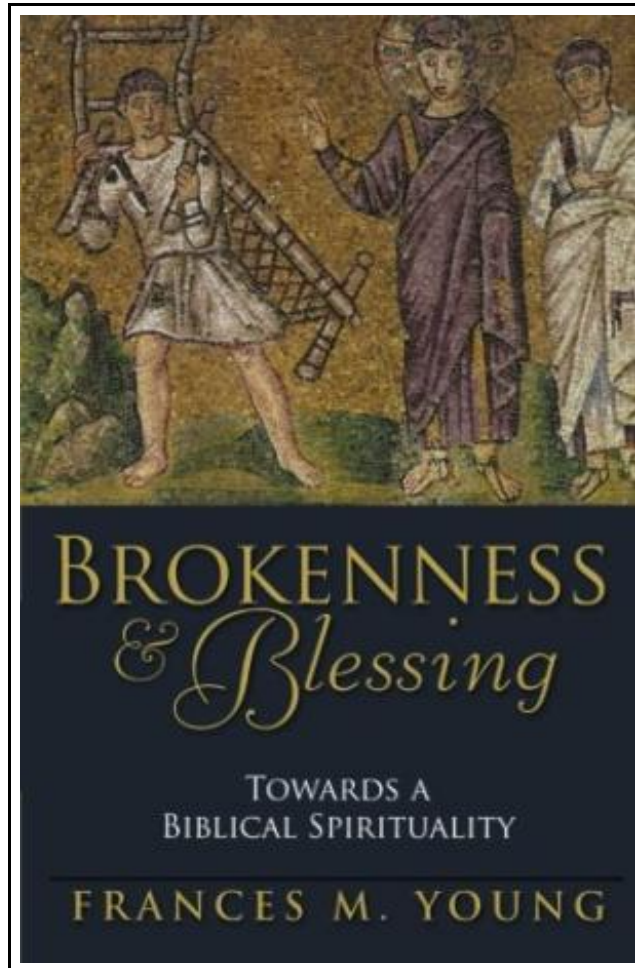


## Brokenness and Blessing: Towards a Biblical Spirituality



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Baker Academic September 2007, 2007. Paper Back. Book Condition: New. She begins each chapter with a hymn, indicating immediately that there are concerns beyond the academic at work here. An accomplished theologian, Young interweaves scholarly exactitude with personal memoir to describe and apply ancient patterns of reading scripture to contemporary Christian practice, in a welcome contribution to the ongoing rehabilitation of typological forms of scriptural exegesis characteristic of the Church Fathers. Young looks at five different examples-the experience of the Desert Fathers, patristic understandings of Jacob's wrestling with the angel, the early Church's insistence on the reality of the Incarnation contra Docetism, exile as a mark of the Church epitomized in Augustine's City of God, and the way themes of longing and fulfillment reveal some of the early Fathers' views of body, soul, and the nature of the human person. Each historical or biblical survey, in Young's hands, yields a motif-exile and suffering, ascetic struggle, the sacramentality of matter, human weakness and brokenness as potentially revelatory of the presence of Christ-that she illuminates by examples from her own life and ministry. She intimately knows the brokenness of which she speaks: for forty years she has cared for a son with severe learning disabilities, and has been deeply involved with Jean Vanier's L'Arche communities. Such suffering, and her respect for scholarly substance, bars the possibility of the saccharine from infecting her outline of the spiritual life, yet her personal narratives are appropriate and affecting.



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