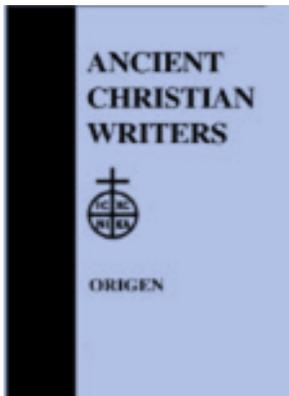




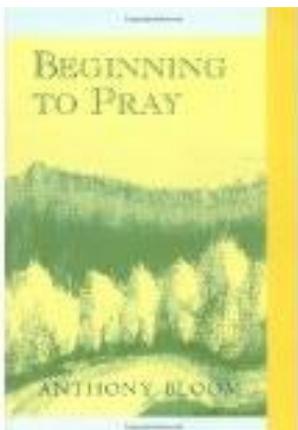
St. Athanasius: The Life of Anthony

St. Anthony is among the Great of the Orthodox Church, and founder of the monastic tradition, but he did not write. At about 350AD **St. Athanasius** did write for us in detail about St. Anthony's daily life, and in particular he gives us an account of the Spiritual warfare that St. Anthony experienced, one encounter after another. Thus, we obtain a profound perspective of Orthodoxy and a clear view of the close-up interaction with God and with demons. As a young man, St. Anthony refused to be tempted into sin and therefore became a target to be attacked by demons. St. Anthony overcame all such attacks by his powerful prayers. This book is a great orthodox spiritual guide.



Origen: Song of Songs, Commentary and Homilies

Origen, ca. 200AD was a prolific Christian Theologian from Alexandria, Egypt. Some of his positions were deemed contrary to the Orthodox faith, and thus rejected... but not the ones in this book. In this book we find a thorough commentary on the *Song of Songs*, with a detailed emphasis on the profound and mystical meanings that it contains, especially regarding the relationship between our souls and God. The Homilies are simpler/co accounts of the themes in the Commentary. Though the mystical content is complex by its very nature, Origen's work provides clarity and makes it easier to understand.



Archbishop Anthony Bloom: Beginning to Pray

Metropolitan Bloom of the Russian Orthodox Church passed away in 2003. His book on prayer starts with a 20 page interview but the "meat" of the book begins with the chapter titled "Absence of God". The book is a great guide on prayer both for those that never pray but also for those that lead a prayerful Christian life.

Most pointedly, the Metropolitan reminds us that we often complain that:

"God does not make Himself present to us for a few minutes that we reserve for Him, but what about the twenty-three and half hours per day during which God may be knocking at our door and we reply *I am busy*".