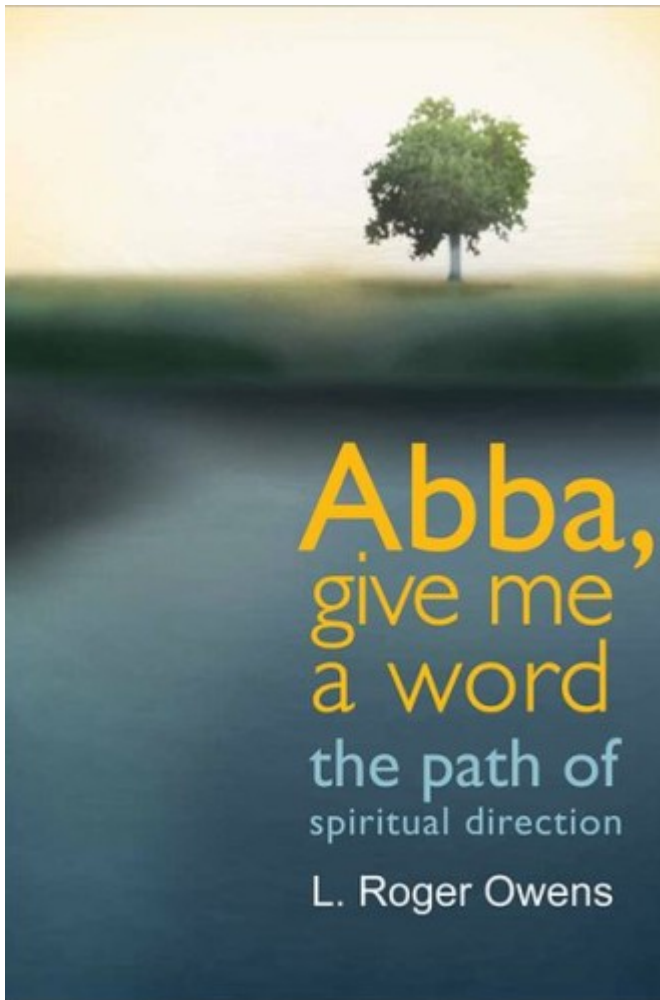


Abba, Give Me a Word, by L. Roger Owens

Books in the [June 13, 2012](#) issue

In Review



Abba, Give Me a Word

By L. Roger Owens
Paraclete Press

As a young Methodist pastor, Owens had the good fortune of finding Larry, a retired Baptist pastor, who became his spiritual director. What sets this book apart from a good number of other books on the subject is its focus on how to *receive* spiritual

direction. Making a home in the house that is God's love is a motif running throughout the book. Owens uses the Desert Fathers and Mothers as touchstones and organizes the process of receiving spiritual direction around a series of gerunds—longing, finding, releasing, offering, trusting and attending. People not involved in spiritual direction can benefit from his stories and reflections, although the book may also entice them to seek out a spiritual director.