

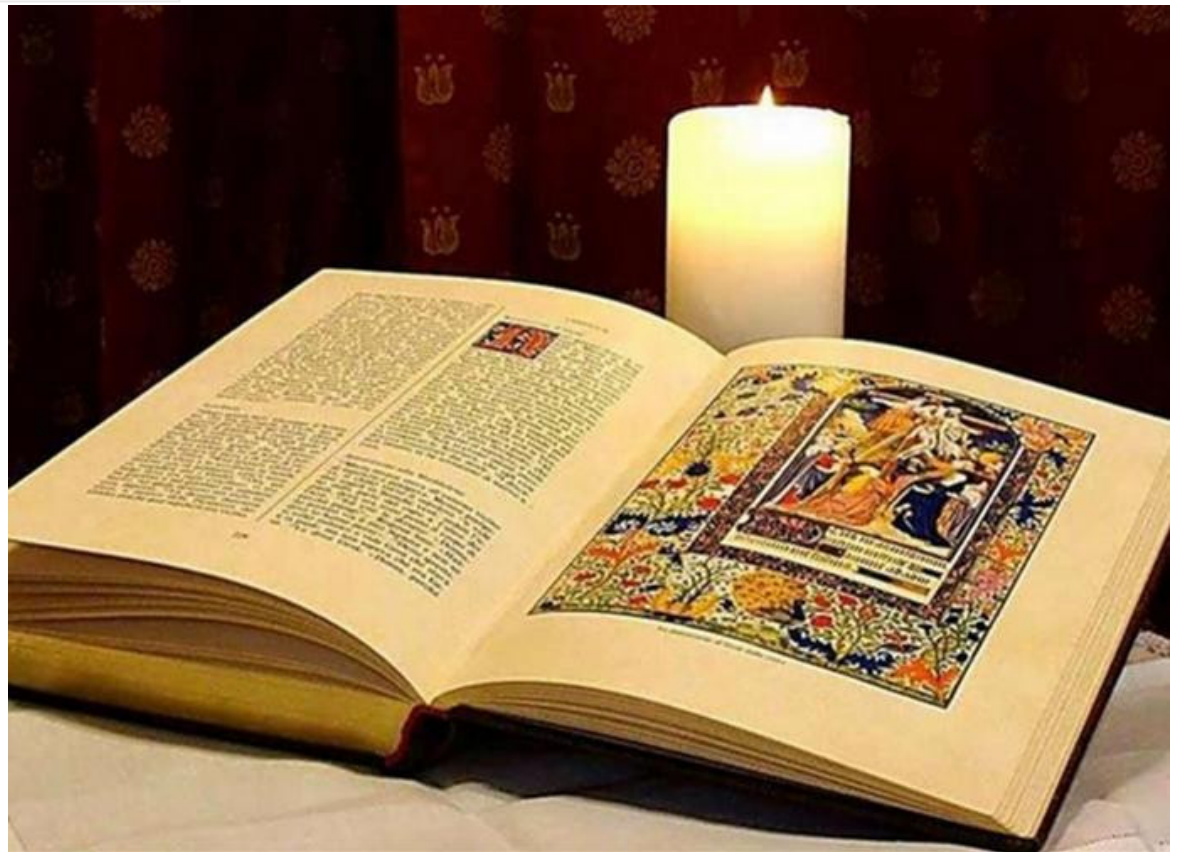
**GOSPEL PEARLS**

## Healing the body and soul

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**GOSPEL PEARLS**

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*On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." And the scribes and the Pharisees began to*

*question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today." (Luke 5: 17-26)*

Jesus performs many miracles in the Gospel and even today. So many sanctuaries have been built in places where a spectacular miracle took place! When visiting these sanctuaries many are miraculously healed. Even the miracles necessary for proclaiming someone blessed or a saint are numerous. Among all the miracles, two types are particularly striking: miracles which heal the body and those that heal the soul. Apparently miracles associated with the body are immediately more visible to everyone, but when you think about it, the miraculous healing of the soul, with the forgiveness of sins that follows, are even more extraordinary. That is why Jesus first heals the soul of the paralytic, thus proving He is God because, as rightly pointed out by the scribes and Pharisees, only God can forgive sins.