

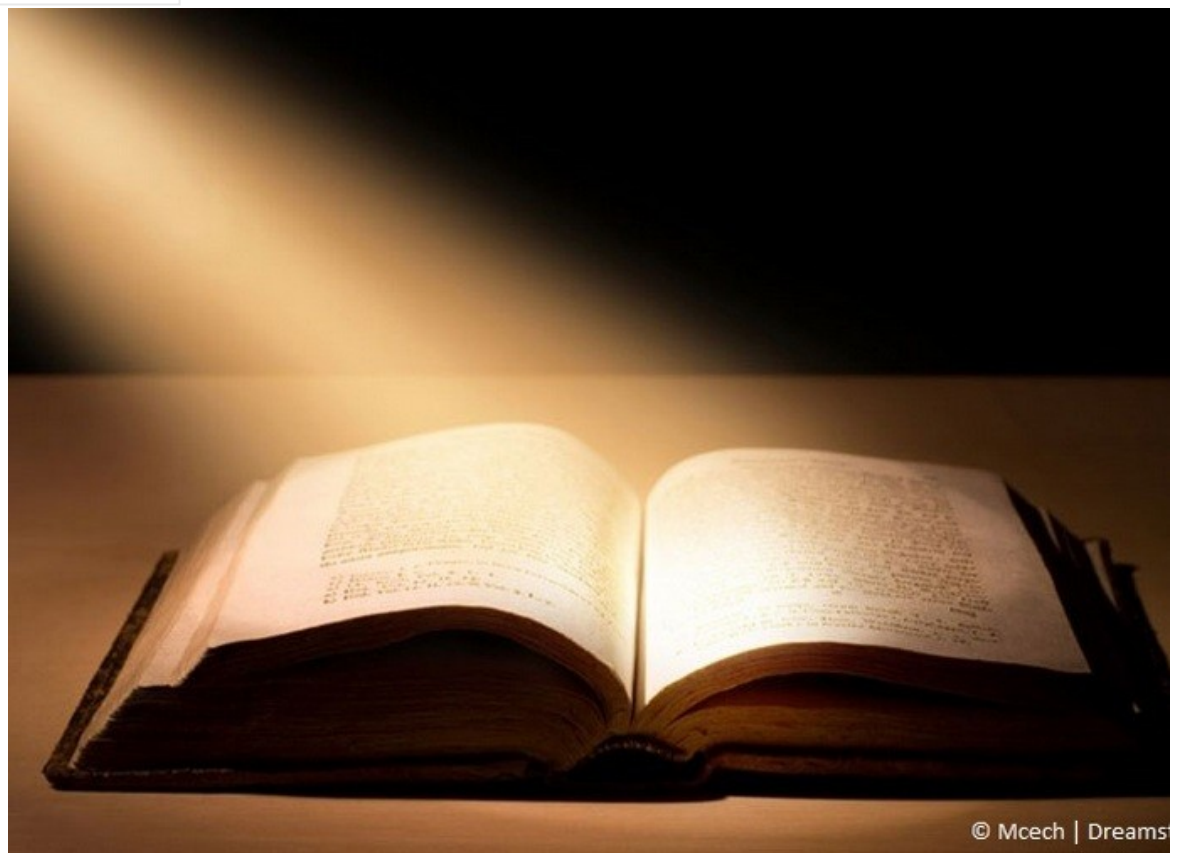
GOSPEL PEARLS

## Without Jesus

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*And getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go home." And he rose and*

*went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men. (Matthew 9: 1-8)*

The healing was not requested by the paralytic himself. Rather it was performed by Jesus to prove to who witnessed it that He is the Son of God. In the face of facts, which are objective events such as the man's healing, our subjective opinions do not count. So we accept the fact that, without Jesus, we will never be totally healed in our hearts and that, without the Lord, our lives have no meaning?