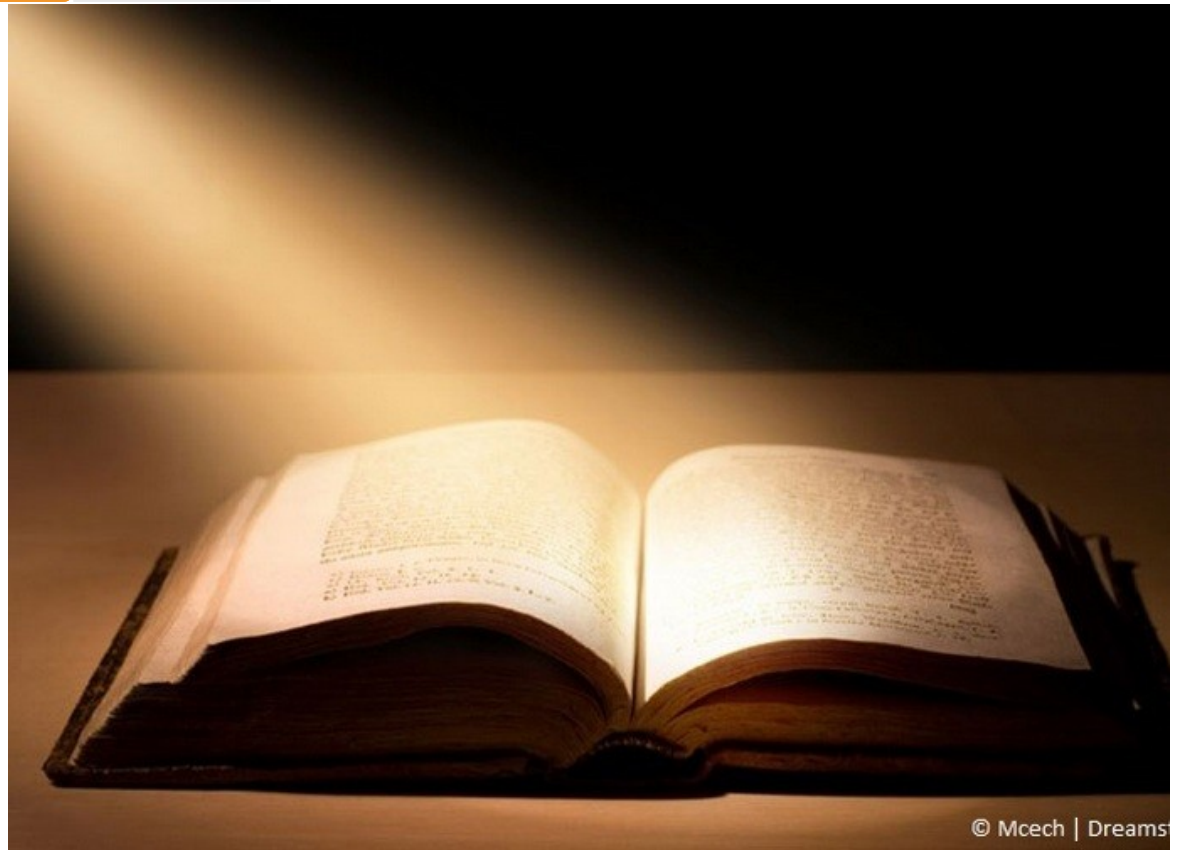


GOSPEL PEARLS

The need for meaning

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Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither;

people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." (Jn 15, 1-8)

The life of mankind, unlike animals, needs meaning. Their desire for unlimited happiness can only be satisfied by the One who has no time limits: God. We are like "zeros" that take on meaning only if preceded by one. This "one" is Jesus, the only God who became man to save us. This is why He is the true vine that gives life to us who are the branches and who cannot live without Him.