



**DARKNESS
AHEAD**

DARKNESS AHEAD

I don't know about you, but the thought of taking a stroll through a dark, gloomy, unfamiliar forest sends my imagination into overdrive and feelings of apprehension quickly rise to the surface of my thinking!

What if I stumble and fall? What if I step into a hole? What if I slide down an unseen gorge? What is lurking in there waiting to jump out at me? Does it have a knife? Sharp layers of teeth? Three heads?! As you can see, the imagination provides endless panic-filled scenarios to pursue, to our own detriment I might add.

What is it about the darkness that elicits these types of anxious thoughts? A few things that immediately come to mind are fear of the unknown, unable to see ahead, inability to control your surroundings and a sense of vulnerability.

Just walking on this path of life in a fallen world will frequently bring us to places of darkness, situations that produce uncertainty and dread for the future.



*KP
Amal*

A PLACE OF DARKNESS

As it so happens, I have approached one of these places of darkness as I write this. At the beginning of the year, I went in for knee replacement surgery expecting to come away with a stronger, stable knee and more mobility. Instead, I have found myself experiencing disability, pain and weakness due to my leg stubbornly refusing to straighten, even with physical therapy. The osteoarthritis in my opposite hip has also worsened because of compensating for the other leg. I seem to be unable to say goodbye to the crutches!

So.... here I am, standing at the edge of the dark and gloomy forest with those feelings of uncertainty, vulnerability and dread wondering, *“What now? Are disability, pain and weakness my companions for the duration of my life journey?”*

The answer? I don't know, of course. I am not able to see ahead in this dark *season (or any season for that matter! None of us are).*

However, I am not left without aid or choices in this circumstance.



KPH
Caman

HE LIGHTENS MY DARKNESS

“For it is you who light my lamp; the Lord my
God lightens my darkness. Psalm 18:28

Just as He did for the Psalmist David, when he experienced a prolonged time of darkness when being hunted by King Saul, the Lord is the One who comes to my aid in times of trial and provides just enough light for me to take one step at a time through the darkness. How does He do this? Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path and V. 130 says, “The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.”

Before I went in for surgery, the Lord had given me many verses to provide direction, to give me courage in my fears, and to provide hope for recovery. It is these promises that are providing light for my soul during this dark time of unexpected and unwanted results from the surgery. There are several verses that shine brightly as I walk this path. “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thess. 5:16-18
And “But after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who calls you to share his eternal glory in union with Christ, will himself perfect you and give you firmness, strength, and a sure foundation. To him be the power for ever! Amen.”
1 Peter 5:10-11 (GNB)

Wow! What an awesome burst of light to give understanding to this simple woman! These are promises that comfort me in my distress and will bring me through this darkness as I make a choice to rejoice, pray, and be thankful as I have been instructed to do in His word!



WHAT IS YOUR DARKNESS?

“God’s deliverance is always seen most clearly looking back; looking forward it is often only seen by faith.”

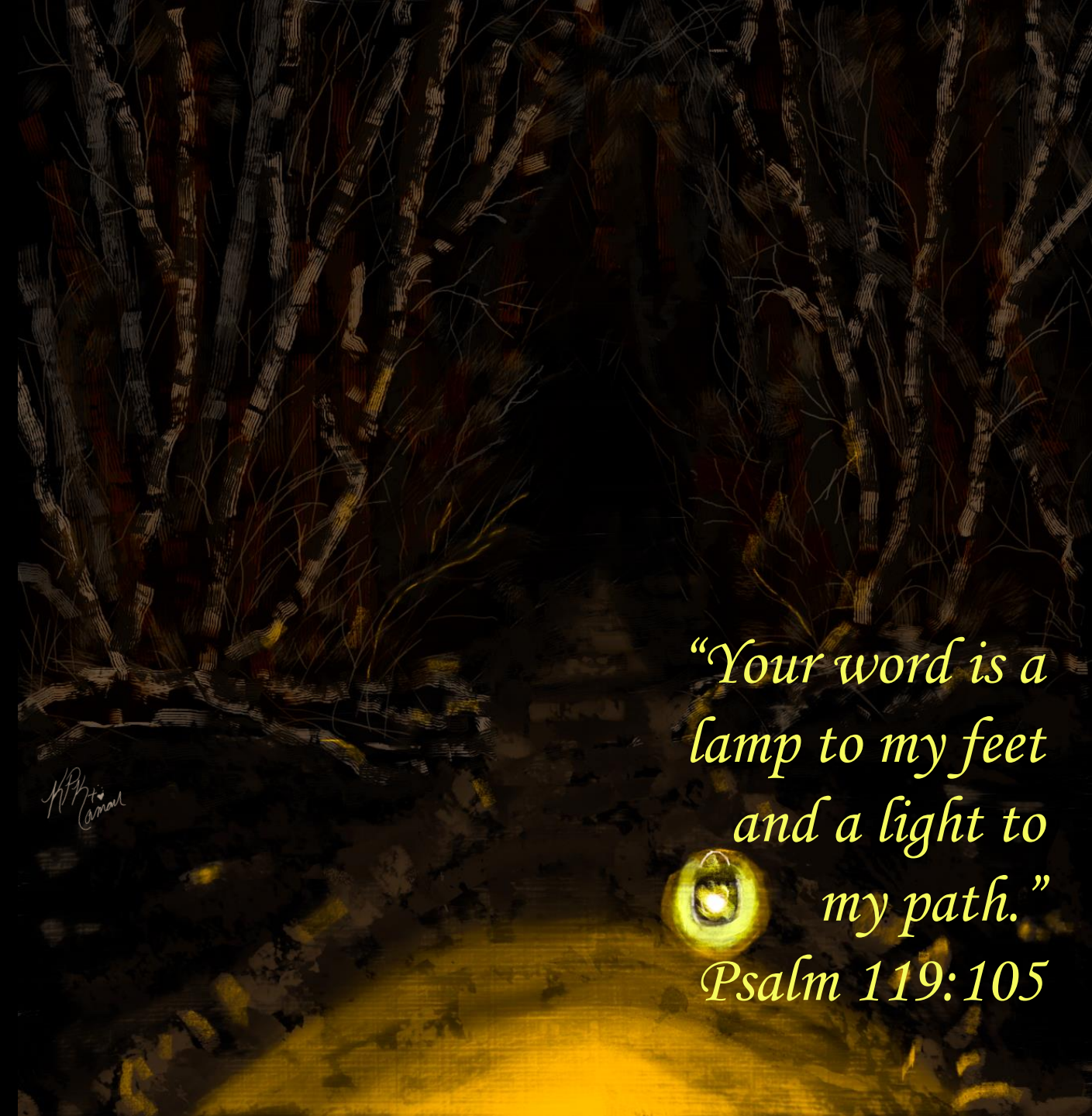
~David Guzik Commentary Psalm 18

Are you approaching a dark and gloomy way on your life path? Or maybe you are already in the midst of the darkness of a broken relationship, a prodigal child, disappointment, financial strain, failing health, or loss of a loved one. Whatever it may be, do not allow yourself to stumble blindly with increasing anxiousness. You are not without hope and direction. Take up the light of God’s word and let the entrance of it into your heart, mind and soul illuminate your way.

*Grace L. Peace
Kimberly Kamau
June 2021*

*Be still my soul the Lord is on thy side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain
Leave to thy God to order and provide
In every change He faithful will remain
Be still my soul thy best, thy heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*Be Still My Soul
Lyrics by Kathrina Von Schlegel*



*“Your word is a
lamp to my feet
and a light to
my path.”*

Psalm 119:105