



The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,
Luke 4:18

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Proverbs 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

In Scripture, the way of a person's life or the way that they are to go is often referred to as a path. The Lord wants us to find and follow the path that he has for us. The path that we choose is based on what we are (Prov. 11:6). When we were lost in our sin and wicked, we chose paths of that liking. However, upon trusting Christ, we have been made righteous and because of him, we are now able to follow the righteous path that he has for us.

This passage declares that the Lord will illuminate or enlighten the path that we are to take. A key part of this passage is: "shineth more and more." The words used for the meaning "shineth more" has in other places had the meaning of forward or to walk. This is a promise that the Lord will lead us in the path for today and then also lead farther along that same path. Psalm 119:105 says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." In other words, there is light shed on the place where the believer stands (to my feet) and also on the direction that he is to go (my path). When the believer takes a step along God's path, the Word of God sheds light on his new place and then farther down the path. The light shining farther

in the direction of God's will is the result of the believer moving in the right or righteous direction. Proverbs 4:18 tells us that God will continue to do this until the perfect day.

The word perfect has various meanings in the Bible. It could mean without flaw, blameless, or even complete, but in this passage it carries the idea of standing erect. I remember sharing the gospel with a woman from Laos. When I asked her what she thought she needed in order to go to Heaven, she replied that she needed to be able to stand-up straight before God. In other words, being able to stand before the righteous judge and not be ashamed. To be able to stand-up straight before God is immediately possible for us because of Jesus Christ and his work on Calvary, but the practical aspect of this in our lives takes a long process. Scripture refers to this as sanctification. For us to get to a point in our lives where we live and walk circumspectly, beyond reproach and without shame is the result of taking a small step in God's righteous direction and then he-through his word-will shed light on the next step. Being a mature Christian is not the result of some great accomplishment, but the product of many small steps. Get into God's word, allow him to speak to you through it and lead you toward that next step. Then, step out and take that giant, small step.