

# Short & Sweet: The Path by Mary Kane



Refreshment and nourishment  
for the soul!

*Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,  
"This is the way, walk in it,"  
Whenever you turn to the right hand  
Or whenever you turn to the left. Isaiah 30:21*

Today I took a tramp through the woods at an area nature center. As I walked along the wooded **paths**, I noticed the evidence of new life springing forth to dazzle the senses ... trilling birds, sweet-smelling flowers, prancing deer, velvety mosses, verdant grasses. The warm spring breezes blew away the cobwebs of winter. As I hiked, I thanked God for each blessing; the herd of deer I spooked, the pileated woodpecker hammering on a dead branch, and the Dutchman's-britches peeping out from under last years leaves.

When I rounded the curve of the Old Field Trail, my eyes met a shocking sight; the scorched lands of the tall-grass prairie. While I gazed on the ugliness of the field, I tried to reconcile the carnage of the seared grasses with the beauty of the woods. I felt the Holy Spirit tugging at my heart to stop

and reflect on the object lesson before my eyes.



*God, I already know sometimes you have to burn off the old to encourage new growth.* But God had a new lesson for me. As I scanned the scorched grasses, I suddenly noticed one thing remained—the green **path**. Formerly hidden by the long dry grasses, the **path** was now easily seen.

Yes, God does burn off old growth (humdrum habits and unhealthy relationships) so we can continue to mature, but sometimes He burns these things because they are clouding our vision of His **path**. With the briars, weeds, and old growth removed, we can clearly see the **path** God wants us to take.

### **Action Points:**

1. Are you following God's **path** for your life?
2. Is there anything you need to give up to follow God more closely?
3. What needs to go so you can clearly see God's **path**?

Life is sweet!

*Mary Kane*