

## Drawn by His Lovingkindness

*Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore, with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. Jeremiah 31: 3*

Hebrews chapter one states that in the past God spoke at sundry times and in divers manners. In other words, in separate revelations and in different ways the Lord used His servants to convey His message. Sometimes the message could be one of a hopeful promise, or it could come in the form of a strong warning or rebuke. Also, there were times when God would use difficult external circumstances in an attempt to speak to the heart of a wayward person or nation. With a heart motivated by love, God's design is always by any means to draw His people back or closer to Him. A circumstance that might appear to be harsh and judgmental in reality was a loving means of getting His people to listen to him, and in doing so their lives would be better.

When we look at our own conversion or specific seasons of drawing near to our Lord, we can see that He often used harsh or even painful circumstances to accomplish His purpose. When dreams crumbled, disappointments mounted, relationships became difficult or terminated, or hope seemed distant; it was then that we saw that loving hand reaching out to us, drawing us closer to Him. Our loving Lord allows us to come to the end of all our fleshly resources so that we might find that heavenly consolation of being under the watchful care of our Good Shepherd. Did not our Lord use a thorn in Paul's flesh that he might learn that God's strength is made perfect in weakness? Jacob's name became Israel when the angel touched the hollow of his thigh so that he would learn to lean upon the Lord. The death of Ruth's husband provided an opportunity for her to cleave to the people of God and be added to the lineage that would eventually produce our Savior.

All things are of God, so remember in the next season of trials or hardship that there is a loving hand drawing us closer to Him.