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## LOVE WON'T LET GO!

Some years ago, on a hot summer day in south Florida, a little boy decided to go for a swim in the lake that was behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out of the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks, and shirt as he went. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward him from the other shore. In the house, his mother was looking out through the window. She saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, she ran toward the water, yelling to her son as loudly as she could. Hearing her voice, the little boy became alarmed, and made a U-turn to swim to his mother. It was too late. Just as he reached her, the alligator reached him. From the dock, the mother grabbed her little boy by the arms, just as the alligator snatched his legs. There began a very incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was much stronger than the mother, but the mother was much too passionate to let go. A farmer happened to drive by, heard her screams, raced from his truck, took aim, and shot the alligator. Remarkably, after weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the animal. On his arms, there were deep scratches where his mother's fingernails dug into his flesh; in her effort to hang on to the son she loved. The newspaper reporter, who interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked the boy if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his legs. Then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, "But look at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my Mom wouldn't let go." You and I can identify with that little boy. We have scars, too. No, not from an alligator, but the scars of a painful past. Some of those scars are invisible, and have caused us deep regret. But, some wounds, are because God refused to let go. In the midst of your struggle, He's been right there, holding on to you. You are a child of God. He wants to protect you, and provide for you in every way. But, sometimes, we foolishly wade into dangerous situations, not knowing what lies ahead. The lake of life is filled with peril and we forget that the enemy is waiting to attack. That is when the tug-of-war begins. If you have the scars of His love on your arms, be very, very grateful. He will not ever let you go.

**By Margaret Njeri Maina (Langata Barracks)**

## LETTING GO, LETTING GOD

Life is an adventure, and accordingly, there may be times when the journey isn't as clear or as smooth. During those times, life becomes easier when divine wisdom is at the forefront of each decision, thought, and action you take. By praying "Not my will, God, but Yours," you're aligning yourself with the strength and power of Spirit Divine. You're letting go, and in doing so you've opened the way for something new to replace the negative thinking. And isn't it comforting to know that whatever the "something new" may be, it's directed by God's love and wisdom? As you mentally agree with yourself to release your ego from the situation, limitations disappear, and the golden glow of God's light illumines your way. Peace fills your mind, body, and soul. In her book *God Will See You Through*, popular Unity writer Mary Kupferle writes, "Take time to be quiet, to be still and contemplate the Truth that God's love is right there with you, that God's light is now shining throughout your mind to reveal what you need to see and know. Listen within and let God's wisdom gently turn your thoughts over and over until the questions become answers, the doubts become newborn faith. You will see that everything has been and is working for your good." As you let go and let God, always remember that God's presence within is your constant source of hope and love. The following affirmations will help you refocus during difficult times. Repeat them silently or aloud and feel the peace of God embracing you:

- God is the source of limitless good that is continually blessing me.
- I am flexible as I allow God's plan to emerge and evolve.
- I let go and let my faith in God carry me through.
- With a silent, heartfelt prayer, I let go and let God heal my relationships.
- I let go and let God, knowing that the source of all good is in charge.

## LET GO AND LET GOD

This piece speaks for itself...Pamela speaks, “my faith got me through the dark and cloudy days. I let go of cancer and all it’s agony and pain and I let God handle the cancer, the beast that is Demon. It was no match for the might of my God...”

When the clouds seem their darkest  
And the daylight won’t come;  
When you’re up to your ears and drowning  
and can’t find a straw to hang on.  
When your load gets too heavy,  
or your shoes get too tight;  
When you’re faced with life’s battles  
and have no will to fight;  
Remember: Let go and let God.  
Remember: He is the way.  
You just trust in God’s mercy  
every night and every day;  
Remember: All thru the darkness,  
Remember: All thru the storm,  
There’s a Light there to guide you.  
and the Good Lord to lean on.

**Pamela deLeon- Lewis**

# HE GATHERS EVERY TEARDROP

He Gathers Every Teardrop  
Regardless of the circumstance,  
Regardless of the fear,  
Regardless of the pain we bear,  
Regardless of the tear.

Our God is ever in control,  
Performing as He should,  
And He has promised in His Word  
To work things for our good.

But as a loving Father would,  
He sometimes lets us cry  
To cleanse the hurt out of our heart,  
To wash it from our eye.

Yet gently gathers the tears  
Within His hands to stay  
Until He turns them into pearls,  
and gives them back someday.

## SEPTEMBER 15TH. ST. CATHERINE OF GENOA.

She was born of a noble family near the historic North Italian port of Genoa in 1447 and married off at 16 to a husband who turned out to be mean, irascible, lecherous, unfaithful, and usually absent from home. Nevertheless her persistent fidelity to him, and devotion to her faith, eventually achieved a change of heart in him (a process recorded in the life of several female saints towards their husbands, but never, it seems, the other way round). In 1473 they moved to a humble abode and jointly devoted themselves to the sick; Catherine became matron of a hospital, putting her health at risk in a plague in 1493, and again in 1496, one year before her husband died. After his death, she continued her spiritual quest but without becoming a Tertiary of one of the religious orders, as would have been customary at the time. A contemplative and visionary, she shared her experiences with others through her writings (on Purgatory, and on the soul and the body). She died in 1510 and was canonised in 1740.

## LET GO...

As children bring their broken toys,  
with tears for us to mend,  
I brought my broken dreams to God,  
because He is my friend.  
But then instead of leaving Him  
in peace to work alone,  
I hung around and tried to help,  
with ways that were my own.  
At last, I snatched them back again  
and cried, "How can you be so slow?"  
"My child" He said, "What could I do?  
You never did let go."

In prosperity, our friends know us; in adversity, we know our friends.

There is no education like adversity. Benjamin Disraeli