

# HAND ON THE STRING

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John 15:9-17

“Helicopter” parenting versus “Helium” parenting.

“We should hold on to our children as a child holds a balloon. Let them rise, float on their own, but keep a grasp on the string so that they do not float away to unknown parts. The time will come when we need to release the balloon but, in the meantime, instead of hovering from above, we should be holding lightly from below.” - Rabbi David Wolpe

## WHEN GOD MOTHERS YOU WITH HIS LOVE:

### 1. It is a love that is specific to you.

*“You didn’t choose me. I chose you.”* John 15:16 (NLT)

### 2. It is a love that gives you a job.

*“I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit...”* John 15:16 (NLT)

### 3. It's a love in which you remain.

*“I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.”* John 15:9-10 (NLT)

*“Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? ...nothing can separate us from God’s love—not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God’s love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!”*

Romans 8:35, 38-39 (NLT)

### 4. It is a love that asks you to play nice and share.

*“This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.”* John 15:12 (NLT)

*“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”*  
John 15:12 (NLT)

At times we may feel God hovering, and at other times we feel the hand on the string, gently letting us rise.

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Bible Translations:  
New Living Translation (NLT)

Sermon by Albert Potgieter      Resource—Homiletics Online