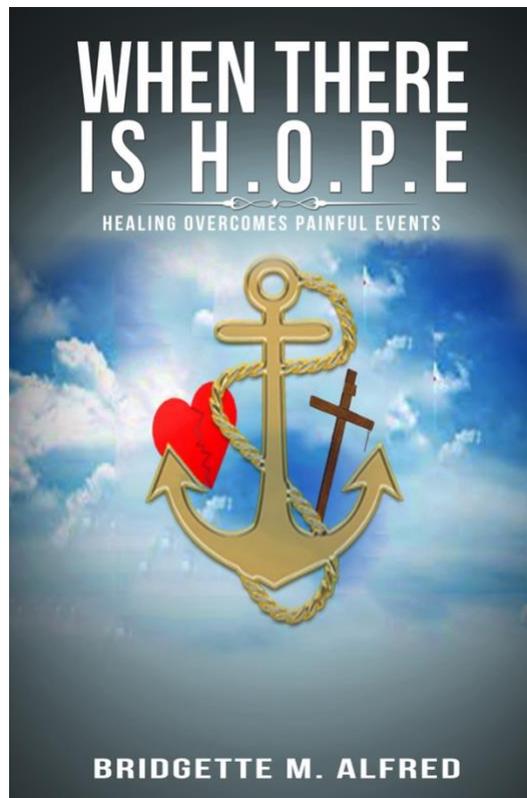


When There Is H.O.P.E. (Healing Overcomes Painful Events)

**BIBLE STUDY GUIDE - Week
Eighteen, Thursday, October 21, 2021**



Andre and Absalom

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ANDRE AND ABSALOM

Andre found Hope in a chance for reconciliation with Raynelle. This excerpt shows his remorse and love toward her.

I just couldn't fall to sleep, so I got out of bed and started reading the twenty letters Aunt Lottie had given me from Andre. She said, "Andre had been writing to me for years, but he didn't have the courage to mail them." Andre had told her it was the death of our father when he started having deep remorse.

Aunt Lottie said, "You should read the letters and then decide whether to accept his apology or not." After reading the letters, my eyes were red from crying. I knew then that I had to mentally prepare myself to meet my brother again. I also remembered a session I had with Dr. Woods when we discussed that forgiveness is an important part of healing.

Andre also had a wrapped package for me.

When I opened the package, I was surprised, even stunned. It was a framed picture of my father and me when I was three years old. My father used to take me to the Baltimore harbor to see the boats. I had my favorite sailor dress on with a matching hat. Aunt Lottie had found a captain's hat for Papa to wear whenever we went to the harbor. I had forgotten all about this until I saw the picture.

I asked Andre, "Where did you get this picture?"

He explained, "Years ago, I had asked our father to send me a picture of my little sister. This is the picture that he sent me. I found it when I was packing to go to college." Because of this little gesture, I began to feel comfortable around Andre.

After dinner, Andre asked, "Could we speak alone?" I was sensing an awkward moment between us but followed him into another room.

He looked directly into my face and said, "Raynelle, I know I have no right to ask, but would you one day in your heart please forgive me? I sincerely apologize for all the pain, hurt, and suffering that I have caused you."

“I will try, but I need a little more time. Aunt Lottie made me realize that your mother had a controlling hold on you and Alston. It’s your mother that really needs to apologize to me.”

Andre and I never mentioned this conversation ever again.

Reflection: How could the enemy benefit from tempting you to believe wrongly about Christ’s attitude toward child victimization?

ABSALOM

Read 2 Samuel 13:20-28

Reflection: Do you think Absalom was justified by killing Amnon since his father, King David did nothing?

Read 2 Samuel 13:29-33

Reflection: Do you think besides getting revenge for his sister Tamar, Absalom knew by killing Amnon he was in succession to be the next king?

Reflection: Describe how Andre and Absalom lives are similar.
