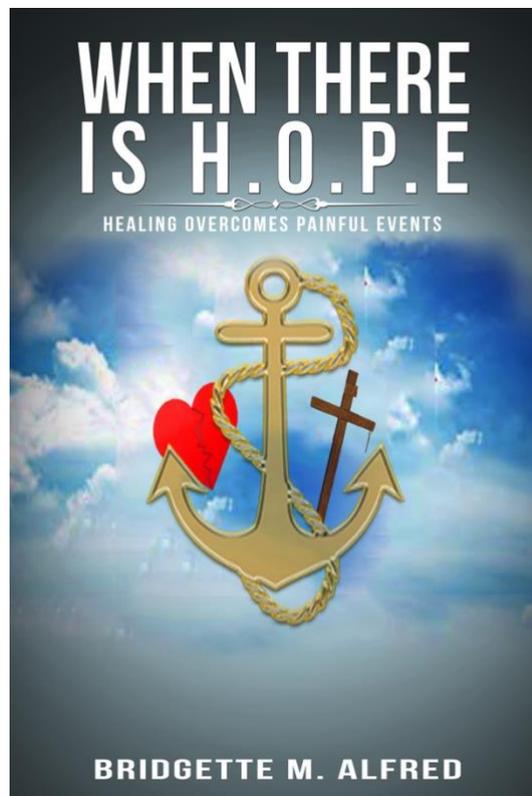


# **When There Is H.O.P.E. (Healing Overcomes Painful Events)**

**BIBLE STUDY GUIDE - Week Eight,  
Thursday, August 5, 2021**



## **Uncle Claude and Abraham**

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## UNCLE CLAUDE AND ABRAHAM

**Uncle Claude had Hope in God for directions to make the right decisions for his family. This excerpt shows Uncle Claude's medical background and the significant impact he had on Joseph's care after his tragic shooting.**

I didn't know that much about Uncle Claude's Army career. He was highly respected as a neurosurgeon and had written several published articles about gunshot wounds to the head. Uncle Claude had operated several times on soldiers who were shot during war times. Uncle Claude knew some of the doctors on my father's medical team because of his medical background.

He borrowed a model of a brain from one of the doctors and explained my father's injuries to us. Nothing Aunt Lottie said to me could prepare me for what I saw lying in the hospital bed. A nurse was checking on one of his IV's and his hospital gown fell off his shoulder. Then I saw what confirmed that this man was truly my Papa. My Papa had my name tattooed on his chest. He told me it was so I would always be near his heart.

The medical team treating my father had removed part of his skull. That allowed the brain to swell without being compressed inside the skull. The brain is like Jell-O in a jar—Dr. Herald explained that if it doesn't have any place to expand, there can be even more damage. Confinement of the tissue can prevent blood flow. Fortunately, the bullet had stayed on one side of his brain without hitting the brain's center where such wounds almost always prove fatal.

For now, Papa's biggest threat was brain swelling. The bone removed was being preserved and could be reimplanted once the swelling diminished. This was a technique Uncle Claude had used in the military with war injuries.

Swelling often peaks on the third day after such an injury, but, in my father's case, doctors may wait as long as several months to replace the bone. With a gunshot wound, they may be worried that the bullet had brought in bacteria. They want to make sure there's no evidence of infection before they replace the skull.

My father was being kept in a medically induced coma, which was deep sedation that rested his brain. It required a ventilator so he couldn't speak. Uncle Claude said it was too soon to know if he could speak if the ventilator was removed.

Doctors periodically lifted his sedation to do tests such as asking him to raise two fingers or squeeze someone's hand. These actions implied a very high level of functioning in the brain. Papa still may need to undergo additional surgery to relieve swelling or remove a blood clot should one develop.

Dr. Herald announced the following week, "The brain remains swollen, but the pressure isn't increasing, which is a good sign for recovery. The swelling in his face has improved tremendously and his kidney functions were normal."

Uncle Claude said, "You get shot in the head, you should be dead. Your father is a fighter and that's why he didn't die. He's been thinking, hearing, and following commands. This is remarkable! So far so good."

**Reflection:** Have you sometimes experienced defeat because you refused to calm yourself in the presence of God and trust Him?

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**Read Genesis 13:1-4**

**Reflection:** Have God ever given life changing instructions without you knowing all the details?

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## ABRAHAM

**Read Genesis 15:1-7**

**Reflection:** Do you have a promise from God like Abraham but haven't seen the manifestation yet?

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**Reflection:** Describe how Uncle Claude and Abraham lives are similar.

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