

# Correcting a Dream

Max Cleland (born Aug. 24, 1942) is an American politician from Georgia. A Democrat, Cleland is a disabled U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War, a recipient of the Silver Star and the Bronze Star for valorous action in combat, and a former United States senator. He is currently serving as the secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission.



Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, a Presbyterian minister who served as chaplain of the United States Senate from 1995 to 2003, tells of a life-changing incident for Cleland in an article Ogilvie wrote for *Leadership* entitled “Pastoring the Powerful.”

Cleland lost both of his legs and his right hand in Vietnam. After his election to the Senate, he came on one occasion to the senators’ Bible study appearing withdrawn and tired. Another senator said, “Max, are you all right?”

“Not really,” he answered. “I’ve been having the same dream for 30 years. I accidentally drop that grenade, and I leap on it, and it explodes and blows my legs off.” That night, the study group gathered around Cleland and prayed that the Lord would heal that memory.

Two days later, the History Channel broadcasted the story. A man from Annapolis saw it and phoned Cleland: “Senator, you have the story wrong. That wasn’t your grenade. It was a young recruit behind you who had opened the pins on his grenades before jumping out of the helicopter. One of them popped out of the belt and rolled on the ground. You leaped on it to save us all. I wrapped you up myself and got you to the hospital. I was at the helicopter; I know how it happened.”

Cleland came to the next Bible study saying a gigantic load had been lifted off his shoulders.

The study group had been studying Romans 8:28, which says, “God works all things together for good.”

Afterward, whenever Senator Cleland hurried around in his wheelchair, he would call out to the Senate chaplain, “Remember, things don’t work out; God works out things.”

What about you? As you go about your responsibilities today, are you depending on God to work out things in your life?

– Beecher Hunter