Courage to Deal with Limitations

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Learn more about Dr. Wilfred Graves Jr. and download the teaching notes and PowerPoint slides for this session at <u>https://www.wilfredgraves.org/nghcogic</u>.

Key Scriptures

- Numbers 11:23 (NKJV)
- 1 Kings 18:39 (NKJV)
- Proverbs 24:10 (NKJV)
- Ezekiel 34:30 (NKJV)
- Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)
- Romans 8:14 (NKJV)

Devotional Reading (Psalm 78:19-54)

This passage recounts Israel's rebellion against God during their time in the wilderness and God's faithfulness despite their disobedience. The passage describes how the Israelites doubted God's ability to provide food and questioned, "Can God spread a table in the wilderness?" (v. 19). Despite their complaints, God miraculously provided manna and quail. However, the people continued to sin, and God responded with anger, bringing judgment upon them.

The psalm also highlights God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt through the plagues, His guidance with a cloud by day and fire by night, and His provision in the wilderness. Yet, the people remained unfaithful. God gave them the land of Canaan, driving out the nations before them, but they still turned away from Him, provoking His anger again. This section illustrates God's patience, power, and provision contrasted with Israel's persistent rebellion.

Central Verse

Psalm 78:41 – KJV, NKJV, NLT versions included:

KJV: 'Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.' NKJV: 'Yes, again and again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.' NLT: 'Again and again they tested God's patience and provoked the Holy One of Israel.'

Key Terms

- Mediocrity: The state of being ordinary or moderate.
- Unlimited: Lacking any boundaries or controls.
- Specific: Restricted to a particular individual, situation, or purpose.

Examples of Faith in Action

• Israel's journey in the wilderness: A warning about doubt and unbelief. God provided for them despite their lack of faith.

- Elijah's boldness on Mount Carmel: Demonstrates how bold faith invites God's power.
- Jabez's specific prayer: Reflects the importance of intentional prayer and trust.

Takeaways: Living a Limitless Life Through Faith

- Faith overcomes fear.
- God's power works through weakness.
- Pray boldly and specifically.
- God remains faithful even when we struggle.

Reflection and Discussion Questions

- 1. What are some things that limit what God will do for believers?
- 2. How does a believer deal with limitations?
- 3. How did Israel limit the Holy One of Israel?
- 4. What happens when the limits are removed?

Challenge for the Week

- Identify one area where you are limiting God.
- Pray boldly over that area.
- Take steps of faith, trusting God to work beyond expectations.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for being a God without limits. Help us trust You fully, pray boldly, and take steps of faith. Strengthen us when we feel weak and guide us when the path is unclear. Thank You for Your faithfulness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Space for Personal Notes