Study Notes: What God Has Started

Message Summary

God has started a good work in every believer and promises to bring it to completion (Philippians 1:6). Despite wandering in the wilderness for forty years and seeing an entire generation die, Caleb held fast to the conviction that God would fulfil His word. When facing overwhelming obstacles, a true believer relies on divine promises rather than outward circumstances.

Believers are called to embrace a different spirit that refuses to be swayed by negative reports, fear, or peer pressure. This requires maintaining short accounts with God, continually closing the distance between ourselves and Him rather than joining in with negativity or complaints.

The spiritual victories won today are not just for personal benefit, but serve to establish a foundation for those who follow. As God grants territory and abundant blessings, believers are responsible for passing on their faith, wisdom, and spiritual inheritance to equip the next generation.

Key Points

- **1. Caleb learned to live by faith, not by sight.** When the other spies returned with a "nevertheless" focus on giants and fortified cities, Caleb declared that Israel was well able to overcome them.
- **2. Caleb stood tall when it counted.** Instead of aggressively arguing with the ten faithless spies in public, he spoke with courage and called the people to trust God and take action.
- **3. Caleb claimed God's promises.** He boldly asked for the specific mountain inhabited by giants (Joshua 14:12), actively choosing the most challenging land to conquer because God had promised it.
- **4. Caleb led by example.** By driving out the sons of Anak himself, he demonstrated to the Israelites that if God can use an older man to secure a victory, He can use anyone.

Discussion Questions

1. Ten of the spies allowed the physical facts of the giants and fortified cities to overshadow the miracles God had already performed. What are some obstacles that are currently challenging your faith in God's promises?

2. Caleb did not settle for average land, but boldly asked God for the very mountain where the Israelites' fear originally started. How can we actively face and drive out the giants of fear or insecurity in our own lives?

3. Caleb was still claiming God's promises at 85. What helps you keep your faith strong and growing over the long haul, rather than settling as the years go by?