

2023 2-9 Support Letter—Thoughts from Warren Wiersbe

I recently read Warren Wiersbe's book *The Bumps are What You Climb On*. Here are some wise words from pages 81-82 of that book.

"It is a great encouragement to know that God is in control of the circumstances of life as we walk in obedience to Him. If there is a victory, He is the One who gave it. If there is a testing after victory, He is the One who permitted it...

"But there is another reason why testings often follow triumphs: *the battles help us discover how much we really learned from the blessings...*

"The battle shows us what God can do; but the keeping of the victory shows what you and I are really made of. We get to know God better during the battle, but we get to know ourselves better during the victory...The disciples discovered Christ's power on land, but their own unbelief on the sea. The miracle of feeding the five thousand was the lesson for the day; but the storm was the examination after the lesson. Too often we don't learn the lesson until after we have failed the examination.

"This leads us to a basic truth that I hope will help all of us in the days to come: *never doubt during the victory what God has taught you during the battle*. Beware of overconfidence...Most of our losses don't take place during the battle; they take place after the victory."