

**C·O·N·Q·U·E·R**

**hoc est bellum**

“If you want to conquer the world, conquer yourself first.”

-Fyodor Dostoyevsky

“This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.”

-Martin Luther

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to help you to become a more effective leader and a stronger warrior in life's battle to promote and protect what is true, good, and beautiful. In order to be victorious in life, with God's help and by His grace, we must seek to conquer the sin within us which so easily entangles us (Heb 12:1), as well as make war against the evil in the world (Eph. 6, 2 Cor. 10). Although the Bible affirms that Christians are already more than conquerors through Christ (Rom. 8:37), we are nonetheless commanded to put to death the deeds of the flesh (Rom. 8), fight the good fight of faith (2 Tim. 1), and put on the full armor of God (Eph 6), as we run the race of life in such a way as to win (Heb 12). In other words, **this is war** (hoc est bellum) and we are called to be faithful warriors. The word CONQUER, according to Meriam-Webster dictionary, means to gain, acquire, or overcome by force. To gain mastery over or win by overcoming obstacles or opposition or overcome by mental or moral power. In this study, C.O.N.Q.U.E.R. is an acronym of various qualities that are weapons in our fight to overcome the darkness in ourselves and in the world around us as we seek to grow as more effective warrior leaders for Christ.

## C. O. N. Q. U. E. R.

C- COURAGEOUS  
O- OPTIMISTIC  
N- NOBLE  
Q- QUALIFIED  
U- UNRELENTING  
E- EDIFYING  
R- RADICAL

# COURAGEOUS

## Key description:

Not deterred by danger or pain. Able to do something that frightens one. Strength in the face of pain or grief.

## Synonyms:

brave, fearless, valiant, valorous, heroic, lionhearted, daring, bold,

## Antonym:

cowardly

**Joshua 1:9** "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

**Nelson Mandela** "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."

**Sun Tzu** "Courage above all things is the first quality of a warrior."

**Muhammed Ali** "He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life."

# OPTIMISTIC

## Key description:

Hopeful and confident about the future. Having a positive attitude and outlook on life.

## Synonyms:

hopeful, confident, positive, cheerful, expectant

## Antonym:

hopeless, gloomy

**Jeremiah 29:11** “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

**Winston Churchill** “The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”

**Helen Keller** “Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.”

# NOBLE

## Key description:

Having or showing fine personal qualities, character, or high moral principles and ideals.

## Synonyms:

virtuous, good, honorable, respectable, upright, decent, ethical, moral, above reproach

## Antonym: dishonorable, unethical, shady, corrupt

**Isaiah 32:8** "But the noble man devises noble plans, And by noble plans he stands."

**1 Peter 3:12** "The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil."

**Ernest Hemingway** "There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man, true nobility is being superior to your former self."

**John Wooden** "Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are while your reputation is only what others think you are."

**George Washington** "Good moral character is the first essential in a man."

# QUALIFIED

## Key description:

Competent or knowledgeable to do something. To reach certain standards of proficiency and skill.

## Synonyms:

skilled, certified, credentialed, licensed, professional, capable, equipped, proficient, disciplined, experienced, trained, prepared

## Antonym: incapable, unable, unskilled

**1 Sam 16:18** “One of the young men answered, “Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him.”

**Psalm 78:72** “So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them with his skillful hands.”

**2 Timothy 2:2** “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”

**2 Timothy 2:15** “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”

**Bobby Unser** “Success is where preparation and opportunity meet.”

**Benjamin Franklin** “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”

**Abraham Lincoln** “Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first hour sharpening the axe.”

**Russell Wilson** “Separation comes from preparation.”

**Bobby Knight** “The will to succeed is important, but what’s more important is the will to prepare.”

# UNRELENTING

## Key description:

The inward drive to keep going when tired, hurt, or things don't go your way. Not yielding in strength, severity, or determination. Not giving up or giving in.

## Synonyms:

unyielding, relentless, determined, tenacious, steadfast, tireless, undefeatable, unshakable, unswerving, unwavering, persistent, enduring, gritty

## Antonyms:

quitter, flakey, weak-minded,

**Hebrews 12:1** "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

**James 1:3-5** "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

**2 Peter 1:5-8** "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

**Babe Ruth** "Every strike brings me closer to the next homerun."

**Babe Ruth** "You just can't beat the person who won't give up."

**Vince Lombardi** "Gentlemen, we are going to relentlessly chase perfection, knowing full well that we will not catch it, because nothing is perfect. But we are going to relentlessly chase it, because in the process we will catch excellence. I'm not remotely interested in just being good."

**Calvin Coolidge** "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not- nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not... Education will not... Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

**Steve Jobs** "I'm convinced that what separates the successful from the non-successful is pure perseverance."

**Colin Powell** "A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat determination and hard work."

**Newt Gingrich** "Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did."

**Walter Elliott** "Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after another."

**Louis Pasteur** "Let me tell you the secret that has led me to my goal. My strength lies solely in my tenacity."

**William Feather** "Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go."

**Woody Hayes** "Paralyze resistance with persistence."

**Vincent Lombardi** "Let me tell you what winning means... you're willing to go longer, work harder, give more than anyone else."

**Thomas Edison** "Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."

**Muhammed Ali** "Ain't nothing wrong with goin down, it's staying down that's wrong."

# EDIFYING

## Key description:

Give support, confidence, encouragement or hope to someone.

## Synonyms:

encourage, hearten, cheer, uplift, inspire, motivate, spur-on, fire-up, stimulate, invigorate, vitalize, embolden, fortify, rally, influence.

## Antonym:

discourage

**1 Thessalonians 5:11** “Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”

**Hebrews 3:13** “Encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

**Titus 2:5** “Encourage the young men to be self-controlled.”

**Hebrews 10:24** “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.”

**Ephesians 4:29** “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

**Zig Ziglar** “True joy comes when you inspire, encourage, and guide someone on a path that benefits him or her.”

**James Kouzes** “Leaders encourage others to continue the quest and inspire others through courage and hope.”

**John Quincy Adams** “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, then you are a leader.”

**Michael Watson** “Strong people don’t put others down...they build them up.”

**Dave Willis** “Be an encourager, the world has enough critics already.”

**John Maxwell** “Everyone has the potential to become an encourager. You don’t have to be rich. You don’t have to be a genius. You don’t have to have it all together. All you have to do is care about people and initiate.”

**Robin Sharma** “Leave everyone you meet better than you found them, become an encourager...”



# RADICAL

## Key description:

A person who holds or follows strong convictions or principles. A person who does not follow the status quo in pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness.

## Synonyms:

revolutionary, game-changing, cutting-edge, strategic, innovative, committed, all-in, devoted, passionate, dreamer

## Antonym:

Lukewarm

**2 Chronicles 6:14** “He prayed, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in all of heaven and earth. You keep your covenant and show unfailing love to all who walk before you in wholehearted devotion.”

**Matthew 16:26** “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?”

**Rev. 3:15-16** “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.”

**Luke 10:27** “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind.”

**2 Corinthians 6:3-10** “We live in such a way that no one will stumble because of us, and no one will find fault with our ministry. 4 In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God. We patiently endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind. We have been beaten, been put in prison, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, endured sleepless nights, and gone without food. We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love. We faithfully preach the truth. God’s power is working in us. We use the weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defense. We serve God whether people honor us or despise us, whether they slander us or praise us. We are honest, but they call us impostors. We are ignored, even though we are well known. We live close to death, but we are still alive. We have been beaten, but we have not been killed. Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything.

**Anonymous** “Be All in, or get out. There is no halfway.”

**Napolean Hill** “Every person who wins in any undertaking, must be willing to burn his ships and cut all sources of retreat.”

**CJ Beatty** “When you want to succeed as bad a s you want to breathe, then you’ll be successful.”

**Les Brown** “Most people fail in life not because they aim to high, but because they aim to low and hit it.”

**William Shakespeare** “Cowards die many times before their death. The valiant never taste of death but once.”

**Anonymous** “Do it with passion or not at all”

**Billy Cox** “Fight for your dreams. Just do it. Whatever it takes. Leave it all on the field.”

## OTHER KEY BIBLE PASSAGES FOR STUDY:

**Romans 12:1** “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

**James 1:12** “Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.”

**Daniel 1:8** “But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king’s choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought *permission* from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.”

**Hebrews 12:1** “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

**2 Timothy 1:7** “For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.”

**Proverbs 3:5-6** “Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will make your paths straight.”

**Philippians 4:8** “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.”

**Romans 8:37-39** “But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”