

VINEYARD Church of the Peninsula

March 29, 2020

Got PPE*?

Onslaught. Outbreak. Warfare. Siege. Attack. Battle. Enemy. Pandemic. Suddenly, we find our conversations peppered with these words and others like them. They instigate fear, dread, anxiety. Our world is in upheaval, scrambling for answers, for relief, for assurance, for hope. If only there was a source to go to! And, thanks be to God, HE IS! Jesus said, "I am the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE." His Church stands firm because the Rock that is Higher is still standing. We've been trained up for just such a time as this so let's take a fresh look at our PPE to restore our perspective, to remind us we are called to be beacons lighting up the darkness, pointing the way home for the home-less.

From Ephesians 6, The Passion Translation ¹⁰ Now my beloved ones, I have saved these most important truths for last: Be supernaturally infused with strength through your life-union with the Lord Jesus. Stand victorious with the force of his explosive power flowing in and through you.

¹¹ Put on God's complete set of armor provided for us, so that you will be protected as you fight against the evil strategies of the accuser! ¹² Your hand-to-hand combat is not with human beings, but with the highest principalities and authorities operating in rebellion under the heavenly realms. For they are a powerful class of demon-gods and evil spirits that hold this dark world in bondage. ¹³ Because of this, you must wear all the armor that God provides so you're protected as you confront the slanderer, for you are destined for all things and will rise victorious.

¹⁴ Put on truth as a belt to strengthen you to stand in triumph. Put on holiness as the protective armor that covers your heart. ¹⁵ Stand on your feet alert, then you'll always be ready to share the blessings of peace.

¹⁶ In every battle, take faith as your wrap-around shield, for it is able to extinguish the blazing arrows coming at you from the Evil One! ¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Embrace the power of salvation's full deliverance, like a helmet to protect your thoughts from lies. And take the mighty razor-sharp Spirit-sword of the spoken Word of God.

Pray passionately in the Spirit, as you constantly intercede with every form of prayer at all times. Pray the blessings of God upon all his believers. ¹⁹ And pray also that God's revelation would be released through me every time I preach the wonderful mystery of the hope-filled gospel. ²⁰ Yes, pray that I may preach the wonderful news of God's kingdom with bold freedom at every opportunity. Even though I am chained as a prisoner, I am his ambassador.

*Personal Protection Equipment