

first responders

in crisis: the people of God



In crisis, Mordecai and the people of Israel responded by fasting and calling out to God. We ought respond the same way.

Matthew 5:13-16

-We are still called to be the salt, even in a stay-at-home environment. Now more than ever, we have to be the light of the world. Say this: "I am the light!" Let your light, the light of Jesus Christ, shine, in the world and in the church.

2 Chronicles 7:13-14

-Even in the midst of locusts, pestilence, and calamity, God's promise is that, "if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Matthew 24-25

-When asked about the end times, Jesus told his disciples what would happen, instructing them to *watch and pray*. He continued on speaking a parable, exhorting us to keep oil in our lamps. We get oil by praying, praising, and connecting heart-to-heart with God.

Ephesians 6:10-20

-One way we identify first responders is because they wear PPE, personal protective equipment. PPE is designed to protect the wearer from injury and illness. First responders put on PPE to protect themselves, knowing they are going into situations where they will be exposed to danger. In the same way, we as Christians must put on our spiritual PPE, the whole armor of God. We do this to protect ourselves, for we are being exposed to spiritual dangers, whether we realize it or not. We put on our PPE *and* we pray.

Let's look at the chronology of God's call to prayer for CHTC:

February 9: Pastor Carr shares God's heart for our Lenten fast: corporate prayer.

February 26: First warning from CDC to prepare for an outbreak of coronavirus.

March 13: The President declares a national state of emergency.

March 19: California issues the first shelter-in-place order.

March 21: Illinois issues its shelter-in-place order.

The Lord *did* prepare us. Although we can do everything in the natural to shelter, wearing masks, staying home, and maintaining six feet of space, ultimately, God is our shelter. God is our PPE!

Psalm 27:4-5 ESV; Psalm 31:19-20 NLT; Psalm 32:7 NASB; Psalm 61:1-4 NLT; Psalm 119:114; Isaiah 25:4; Psalm 91

-We have to hide ourselves in God's Word. We must cover ourselves with His promises. This is part of putting on our PPE. Note: at the bottom of the [CHTC media page](#) and CHTC app, you can hear scriptures on healing. We can take advantage of the shelter God gives us through relationship. When our trust is in the Lord, we can be used by God to draw people to Him. Activate your armor through faith, not routine. And remember, God is our shelter-in-place.