Tempted, Call 9-1-1 Submitted by Minister Loray Ellis-Mooring

Matthew 4:1-4

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.²And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.³Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." ⁴But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'

In this journey of life, there will be many times we will be tempted on every side. My friend, even when the tempter is near to distract us from being Christlike, we must remember to pray and seek God's face. Calling on the name of Jesus we know that He is just a step and a prayer away. Going through the fire, we know we can depend on our Savior to bring us through like pure gold. Our spiritual victories are often followed by a test. Jesus was tempted on every side. As I place this image to mind, Jesus was *led up by the Spirit*; He was *in the wilderness*; and He *fasted for forty days and forty nights*. He was *tempted by the adversary*. Being in the wilderness, can you imagine the scene? He was weak, tired, thirsty and hungry.

When we reflect back on our previous years, the pandemic of COVID torpedoed the world. This virus crept into our very existence. It caused isolation from family and friends; death of loved ones; jobs lost; economy down; our churches and schools were limited; let alone social gathering was non-existent. But we can call on the name of the Lord. We can call on scripture, we can "CALL 9-1-1" that is Psalms 91:1 "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High, will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Jesus trusted His father, as He was being tested on every side. His faith was tested, but His allegiance to God helped Him pass the temptations He faced. When tempted call on Jesus.

We may be faced with many obstacles we encounter daily in this journey. Rest assured we can call on the Almighty God to give us strength to endure, to overcome and be **Victorious**. Thanking Him daily for His **Grace** that is sufficient, and His **Mercy** is everlasting. We can call upon the name of the Lord anytime. We have the promises, we have the assurance. God is never late – He is on time!