

Instead of thinking about it in terms of Jesus' two natures, think about it in terms of the Christology our Hymn of the Day teaches. It's the Christology of our Introit from Psalm 91. Hear some verses again from **Psalm 91**, the appointed Introit: **"I will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust'"** (v. 2). Again, **"He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and buckler"** (v. 4). One more, though I could have read you the entire Psalm, **"A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it (that is, the snare of the fowler or deadly pestilence) will not come near you"** (v. 7).

If Jesus is a refuge, a fortress, a shield, a buckler, and if ten thousand others fall, but Christ does not, Jesus is, as the battle hymn of the Reformation sings, "A mighty fortress." He is "a trusty shield and weapon." If Jesus *could* sin, then He would not be a trusty shield or weapon. If a shield or weapon could break or malfunction, we would have no confidence in it! We would always be worried of mechanical failure as it were. But Jesus cannot break or malfunction. Jesus cannot sin.

We are always in the heat of spiritual battle, and sometimes it feels like we are losing. But this is why we celebrate today. Christ won. He did not give into any temptation from Satan. He couldn't. So when we do, we confess our sin. We do not try to hide ourselves from God as our first parents did in the Garden (**Gen 3:8**), or fabricate excuses to cover our iniquity like Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together to cover their nakedness (**Gen 3:7**). And then when we confess our sins, we look to He who is our trusty shield and weapon; He who is our mighty fortress. No assaults of the Devil can penetrate the shield that is our Christ. No attack of Satan can disarm us of Jesus. Christ is our sure confidence. He cannot break, fold, or lose.

So lean on Him in everything. As the Epistle states in **Hebrews 4:16**, **"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."** God is always more willing to give than we are to ask. God is always more willing to help than we are to seek aid. He is super-abundantly generous in His giving, even though we are less than abundantly eager to receive.

Celebrate Christ's temptation in the wilderness, knowing that He endured the suffering that came with Satan's attacks in the wilderness for you. Celebrate Christ overcoming temptation in the wilderness proving that He is a trusty shield that cannot break, a mighty weapon that cannot malfunction. Celebrate Christ's victory over Satan when He not only resisted the assaults of the flesh, but overcame the death of His body and rose again on the Third Day. In Christ you cannot lose. He **"sympathizes with our weaknesses, and has been tempted as we are, yet without sin"** (**Heb 4:15**). He gets you. He knows you. He has compassion on you. He doesn't excuse your sin, but took it upon Himself on the cross to forgive it.

Who wouldn't follow that kind of Man into battle? Fight on, brothers and sisters, all the while knowing that the victory has been won. The kingdom ours remaineth. In Jesus' name, Amen.