Have you ever felt that you were in over your head? Have you ever had the sense that things were going to get a lot worse rather than better. Have you ever gone to bed desperately hoping that when you woke up the next day all of it will have been a dream? We have probably all been there and done that. What I love about God is the fact that He expects me to grow and to become more and more like Jesus. But He never asks me to do it alone. I'm not supposed to clean myself up; I'm not supposed to work harder to please Him. What I must do is to come humbly before Him each day, to ask His help and strength to live in a way that makes Him look good to others. He has promised to be with us and to help us; that is the wonder of His GRACE.

Romans 5:1-2, 21 *(Phillips) Since then it is by faith that we are justified, let us grasp the fact that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have confidently entered into this new relationship of grace, and here we take our stand... [21]...though sin is shown to be wide and deep, thank God HIS GRACE IS WIDER AND DEEPER STILL!*

By faith in Jesus Christ and what He did for us at the cross we are Forgiven and we are no longer enemies of God. We are no longer on the path to destruction. We have passed from death to life. Yet, we do have the ongoing struggle of facing temptation and sin. How many times just this week have we slipped and said, done, or even thought something that was wrong? Sometimes the sin we struggle with seems to have an awfully firm grip on you. That is why verse 21 is such a comfort. No matter how awful sin is, God's Grace is always WIDER and DEEPER.
Life Application Study Bible "...keep in mind the two-sided reality of the Christian life. On the one hand, we are complete in Christ (our acceptance with Him is secure). On the other hand, we are growing in Christ (we are becoming more and more like him). At the same time we have the status of kings and the duties of slaves. We feel both the presence of Christ and the pressure of sin. We enjoy the peace that comes from being made right with God, but we still face daily problems that often help us grow.**"**

PRAYER: Lord, God please help me to trust and depend more and more on your Spirit. Help me to say NO to myself and those things which draw me away from You. Help me to say Yes to Your incredible Grace. Help me to live focused on You and You alone.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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