

'that you may have power to grasp'

From the Matthew Henry Commentary: (emph. mine)

In order to this he prays, For their experimental acquaintance with the love of Jesus Christ. The more intimate acquaintance we have with Christ's love to us, the more our love will be drawn out to him, and to those who are his, for his sake... [we would] more clearly understand, and firmly believe, the wonderful love of Christ to his, which the saints do understand and believe in some measure, and shall understand more hereafter.

Some commentators also point out that as the 'body of Christ' God loves to give certain revelation, certain areas of emphasis to different parts of the body; we need one another to come into a more complete and deeper understanding of the love and works of God.

grasp (G2638) καταλαμβάνω (katalambano)

John 1:5 - The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not **overcome*** it.

*or **understood**...the greek can mean 'seize upon' and thus perhaps 'overpower/overcome'

Phill 3:12 - Not that I have already **attained***, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may **lay hold** of that for which Christ Jesus has also **laid hold** of me. (NKJV)

*'lambano' only

1 Cor 9:24 - Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may **obtain** it. (NKJV)

have power (G1840) ἐξισχύω (eks-i-skhü'-ō)

(1) to be eminently able

From **iskhüo** (G2408) meaning: to have power or ability

This is the only reference for this word in the New Testament. It's root, *Iskhüo* is used in the following instances:

Matt 9:12 - But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, "They that be **whole** need not a physician, but they that are sick." (KJV)

Luke 14:28-29 - "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and **are not able** to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you... (here, used in the negative sense)

Phil 4:13 - I **can do** all this through him who gives me strength

James 5:16 - Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is **powerful and effective**. (KJV = 'availeth much')

Kata (G2569) + lambano (G2983)

Kata = "motion or diffusion or direction from the higher to the lower."

Lambano = to take, to lay hold of, to strive after - that which is taken and not let go of - to admit or receive, to take by craft - eg: fisherman, hunters

Synonyms: grasp, lay hold of, understand, comprehend, apprehend, to seize upon,

to take power over - eg: becoming able to steer a ship or mount and ride a horse, that is, taking mastery and understanding of a thing

Word Study Ephesians 3:18

...And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may **have power**, together with all the saints, to **grasp** how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3 is another foundational prayer at AHOP. We pray this prayer for one another and for the Church in our city.

The word used for 'power' (*Iskhüo*) is occasionally translated in the KJV as 'whole'. This can be taken to mean fully formed, fully developed, mature - one that is brought into the fullness of way God intended them to operate and exist.

We can thus pray "that we may **be whole** on the inside, that we may be complete as a the body of Christ - without brokenness or division, healthy strong and mature...in order to grasp how long a and high..."

56:7



Austin House of Prayer