

**Epheser 3:17-19** daß Christus durch den Glauben in euren Herzen wohne, damit ihr, in Liebe gewurzelt und gegründet, (18) mit allen Heiligen zu begreifen vermöget, welches die Breite, die Länge, die Höhe und die Tiefe sei, (19) und die Liebe Christi erkennet, die doch alle Erkenntnis übertrifft, auf daß ihr erfüllt werdet bis zur ganzen Fülle Gottes.

---

**May be able** — even still further. *Greek*, “May be *fully* able.”

**breadth ... length ... depth ... height** — namely, the full dimensions of the spiritual temple, answering to “the fullness of God” ([Eph 3:19](#)), to which the Church, according to its capacity, ought to correspond (compare [Eph 4:10](#), [Eph 4:13](#)) as to “the fullness of *Christ*.” The “breadth” implies Christ’s world-wide love, embracing all men: the “length,” its being extended through all ages ([Eph 3:21](#)); the “depth,” its profound wisdom which no creature can fathom ([Rom 11:33](#)); the “height,” its being beyond the reach of any foe to deprive us of ([Eph 4:8](#)) [Bengel]. I prefer to understand “the breadth,” etc., to refer to *the whole of the vast mystery of free salvation in Christ for all, Gentile and Jew alike*, of which Paul had been speaking ([Eph 3:3-9](#)), and of which he now prays they may have a fuller comprehension. As subsidiary to this, and the most essential part of it, he adds, “and to know *the love of Christ*” ([Eph 3:19](#)). Grotius understands *depth* and *height* of God’s goodness raising us from the lowest depression to the greatest height.

#### [Eph 3:17](#)

**Christ:** [Eph 2:21](#); [Isa 57:15](#); [Joh 6:56](#), [Joh 14:17](#), [Joh 14:23](#), [Joh 17:23](#); [Rom 8:9-11](#); [2Co 6:16](#); [Gal 2:20](#); [Col 1:27](#); [1Jo 4:4](#), [1Jo 4:16](#); [Rev 3:20](#)

**being:** [Mat 13:6](#); [Rom 5:5](#); [1Co 8:1](#); [2Co 5:14-15](#); [Gal 5:6](#); [Col 1:23](#), [Col 2:7](#)

**grounded:** [Mat 7:24-25](#); [Luk 6:48](#) \*Gr.

#### [Eph 3:18](#)

**able:** [Eph 3:19](#), [Eph 1:18-23](#); [Job 11:7-9](#); [Psa 103:11-12](#), [Psa 103:17](#), [Psa 139:6](#); [Isa 55:9](#); [Joh 15:13](#); [Gal 2:20](#), [Gal 3:13](#); [Phi 2:5-8](#), [Phi 3:8-10](#); [1Ti 1:14-16](#), [1Ti 3:16](#); [Tit 2:13-14](#); [Rev 3:21](#)

**with:** [Eph 1:10](#), [Eph 1:15](#); [Deu 33:2-3](#); [2Ch 6:41](#); [Psa 116:15](#), [Psa 132:9](#), [Psa 145:10](#); [Zec 14:5](#); [2Co 13:13](#); [Col 1:4](#)

**what:** [Rom 10:3](#), [Rom 10:11-12](#)

#### [Eph 3:19](#)

**to know:** [Eph 3:18](#), [Eph 5:2](#), [Eph 5:25](#); [Joh 17:3](#); [2Co 5:14](#); [Gal 2:20](#); [Phi 2:5-12](#); [Col 1:10](#); [2Pe 3:18](#);

[1Jo 4:9-14](#)

**passeth:** [Phi 1:7](#)

**that ye:** [Eph 1:23](#); [Psa 17:15](#), [Psa 43:4](#); [Mat 5:6](#); [Joh 1:16](#); [Col 2:9-10](#); [Rev 7:15-17](#); [Rev 21:22-24](#), [Rev 22:3-5](#)

#### [Eph 3:18](#)

„Vermöget“

#### **May be able (ἐξισχύσητε)**

Rev., *may be strong*. This compound verb occurs only here. The preposition ἐξ has the force of *fully* or *eminently*. Ἰσχὺς is *strength embodied*; inhering in organized power. Hence it is an advance on *δυνάμει* *might* in [Eph 3:16](#) (see note). Paul prays that the inward *might* or *virtue* may issue in ability to grasp. Compare [Luk 14:30](#) (note); [Luk 16:3](#) (note); [Act 27:16](#) (note); [Jam 5:16](#) (note).

#### **Comprehend (καταλαβέσθαι)**

To English readers this conveys the meaning *understand*. Rev., better, *apprehend*: *grasp*. See on [Joh 1:5](#), and compare [Phi 3:12](#), [Phi 3:13](#).

#### **Breadth, etc.**

No special interpretations are to be given to these words. The general idea of vastness is expressed in these ordinary terms for dimension. Notice that the article is attached only to the first, *breadth*, all the rest being included under the one article; the intention being to exhibit the love of Christ in its entire dimension, and not to fix the mind on its constituent parts.