

Chapter 2. When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan. Verse 2. For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. NLT

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Verse 3. I came to you in weakness -- timid and trembling. Verse 4. And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. Verse 5. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.

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Verse 6. Yet when I am among mature believers, I do speak with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. Verse 7. No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God -- his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began.

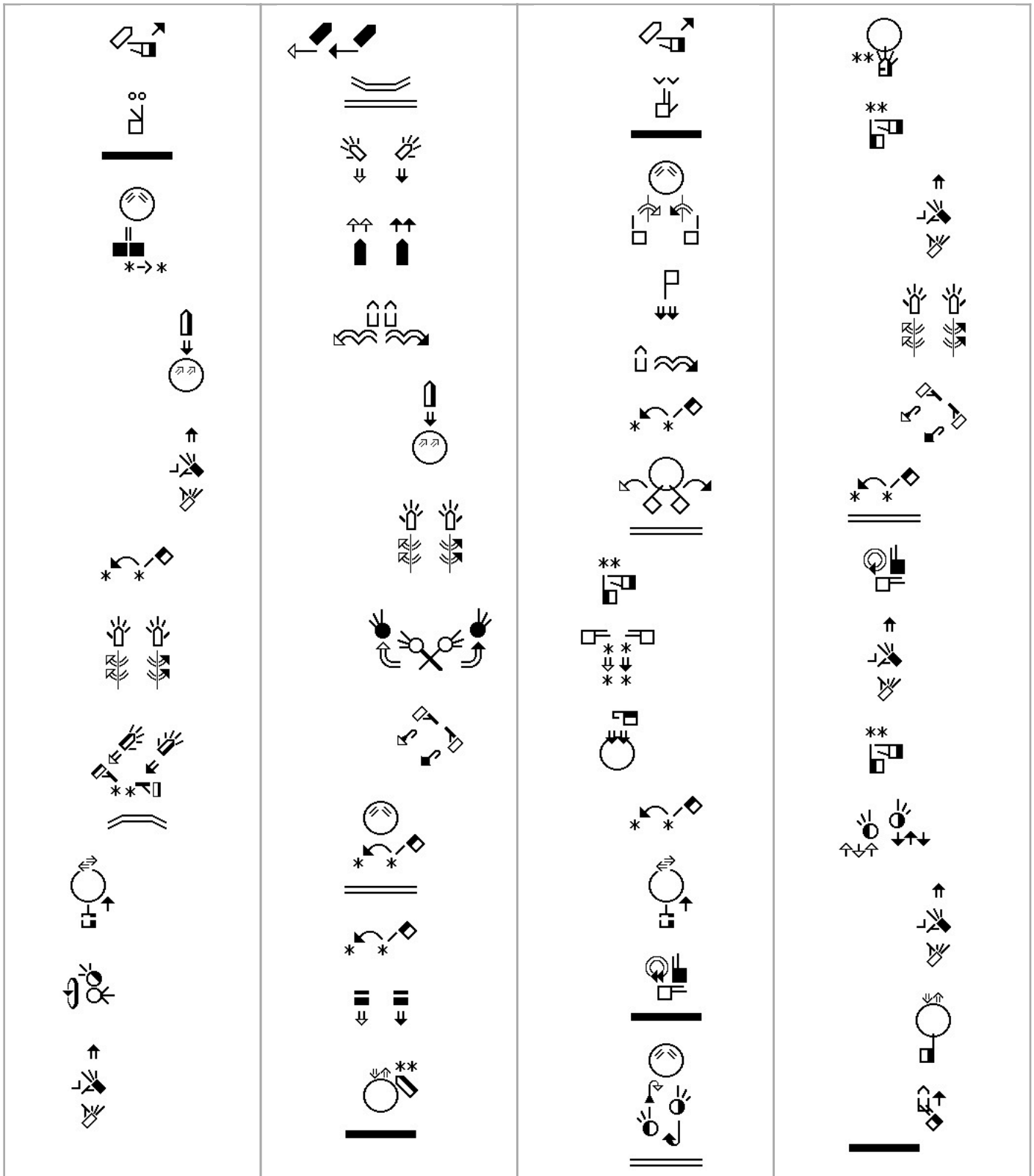
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Verse 10. But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. Verse 11. No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit.

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Verse 12. And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. Verse 13. When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. NLT

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Verse 14. But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. Verse 15. Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves

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cannot be evaluated by others. Verse 16. For, "Who can know the LORD'S thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?" But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.

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