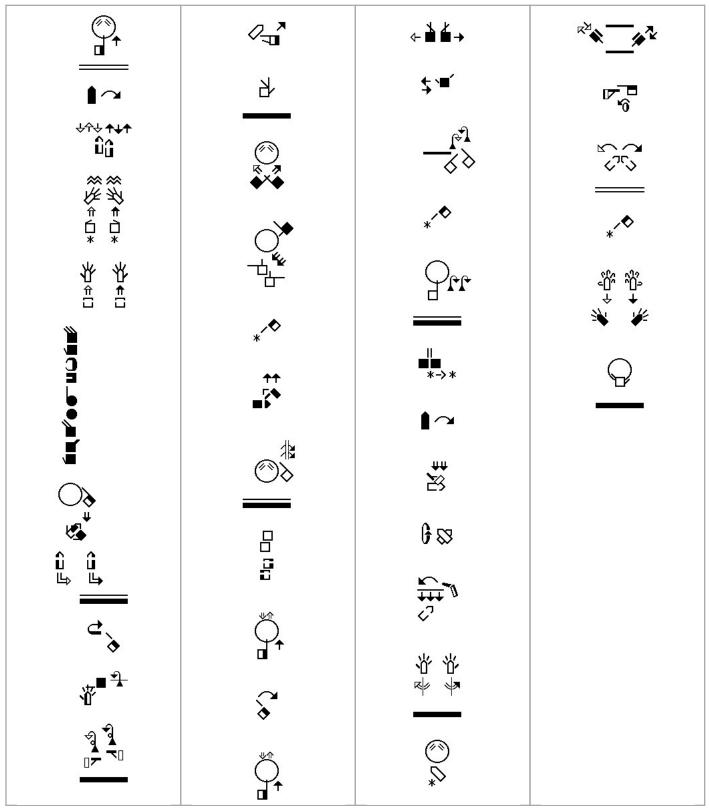
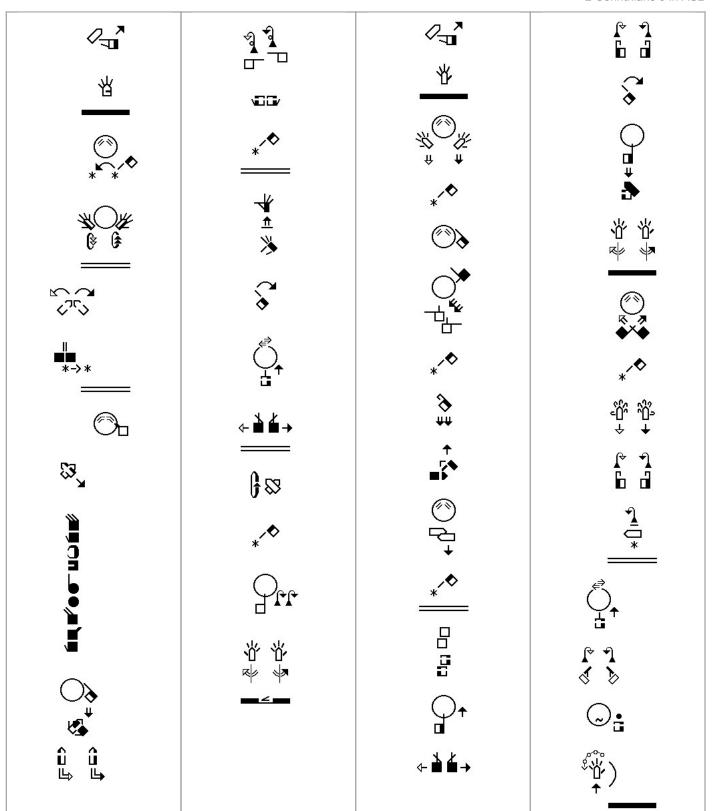


Chapter 9. I really don't need to write to you about this ministry of giving for the believers in Jerusalem. Verse 2. For I know how eager you are to help, and I have been boasting to the churches in Macedonia that you in Greece were ready to send an offering a year ago.

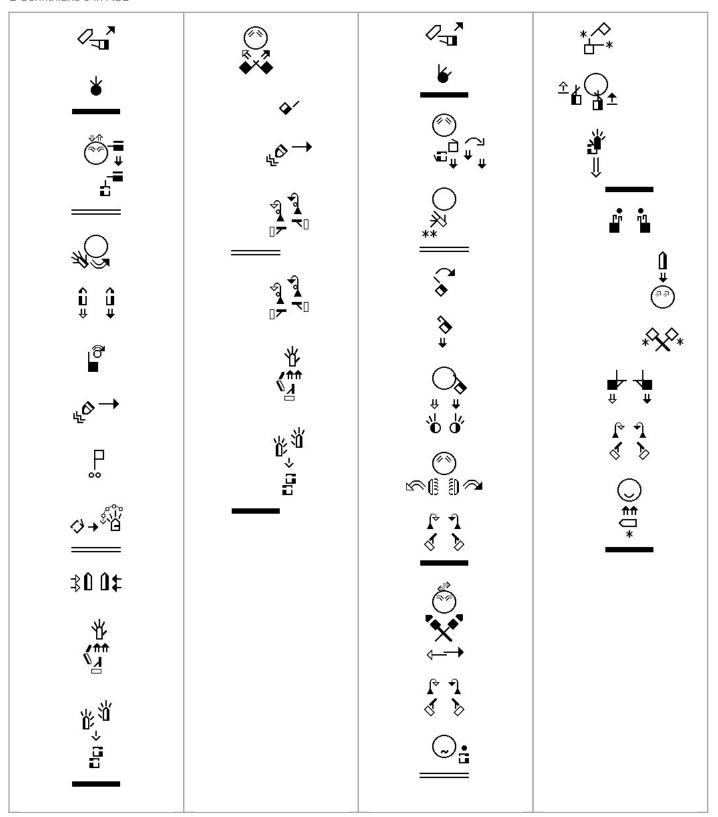


In fact, it was your enthusiasm that stirred up many of the Macedonian believers to begin giving. Verse 3. But I am sending these brothers to be sure you really are ready, as I have been telling them, and that your money is all collected. I don't want to be wrong in my boasting about you.

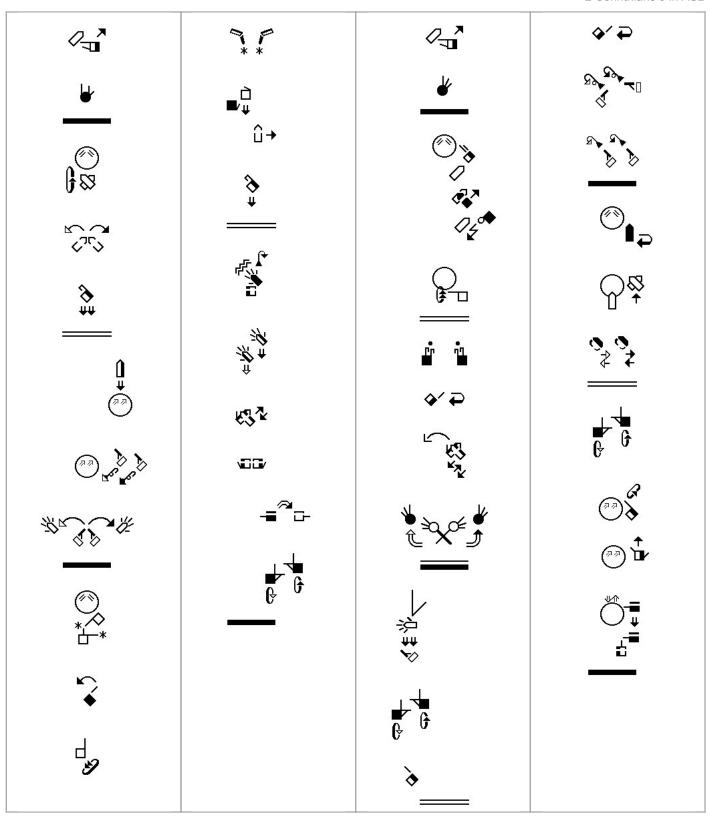
NLT



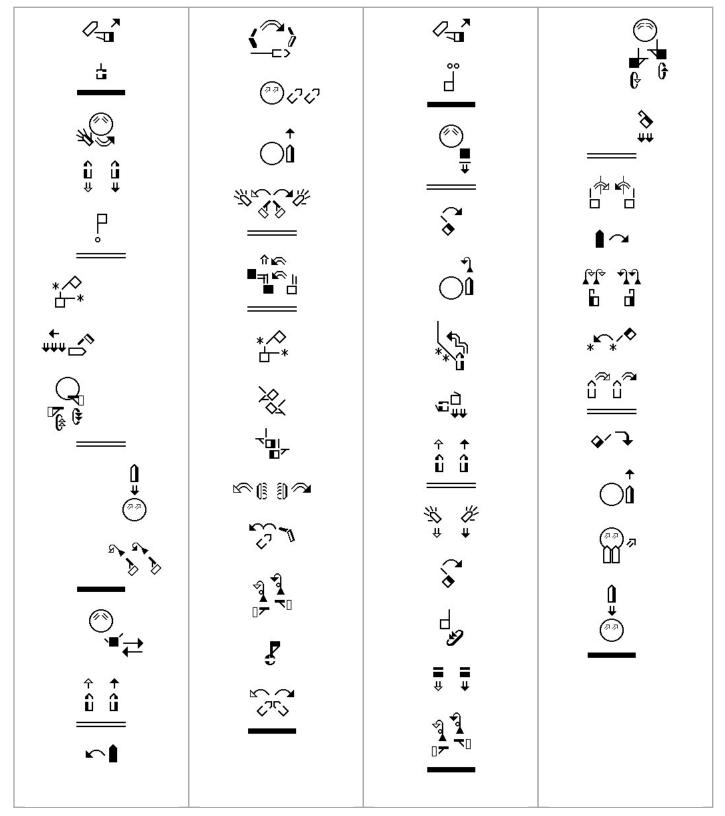
Verse 4. We would be embarrassed -- not to mention your own embarrassment -- if some Macedonian believers came with me and found that you weren't ready after all I had told them! Verse 5. So I thought I should send these brothers ahead of me to make sure the gift you promised is ready. But I want it to be a willing gift, not one given grudgingly. NLT



Verse 6. Remember this -- a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. Verse 7. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

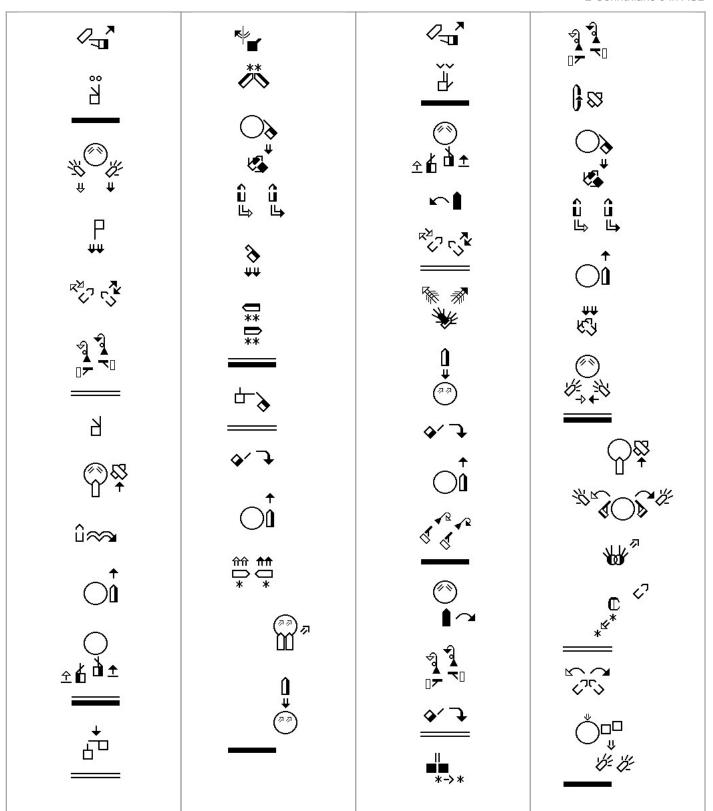


Verse 8. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. Verse 9. As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever."

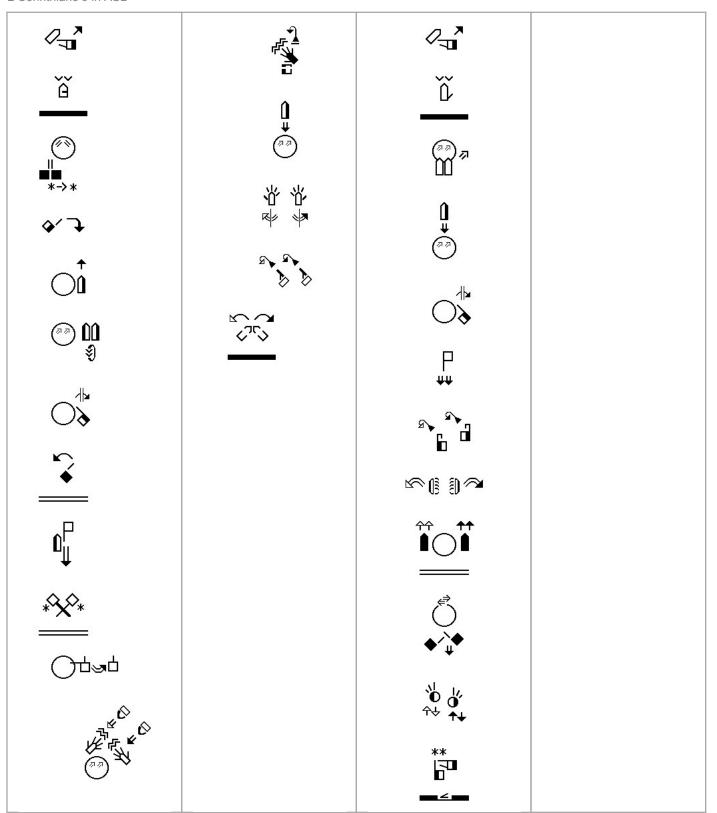


Verse 10. For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Verse 11. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.

NLT



Verse 12. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving -- the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. Verse 13. As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.



Verse 14. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. Verse 15. Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words! NLT