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


































2 Corinthians, Chapter 1. This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. I am writing to God's church in Corinth and to all of his holy people throughout Greece.

<p>ASL signs for Verse 2: May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 3: All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 2: May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 3: All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.</p>
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Verse 4. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. Verse 5. For the more we suffer for Christ, the more

217 God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. Verse 6. Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer. NLT

         	        	            	            
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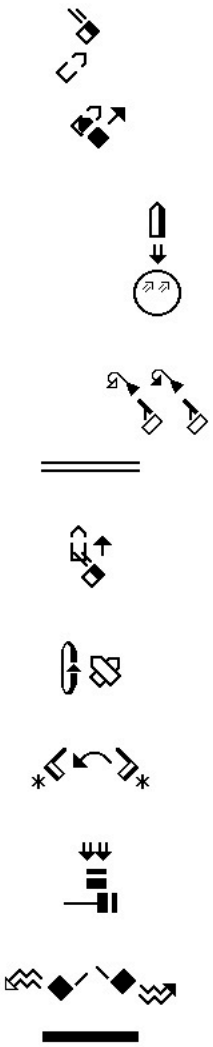
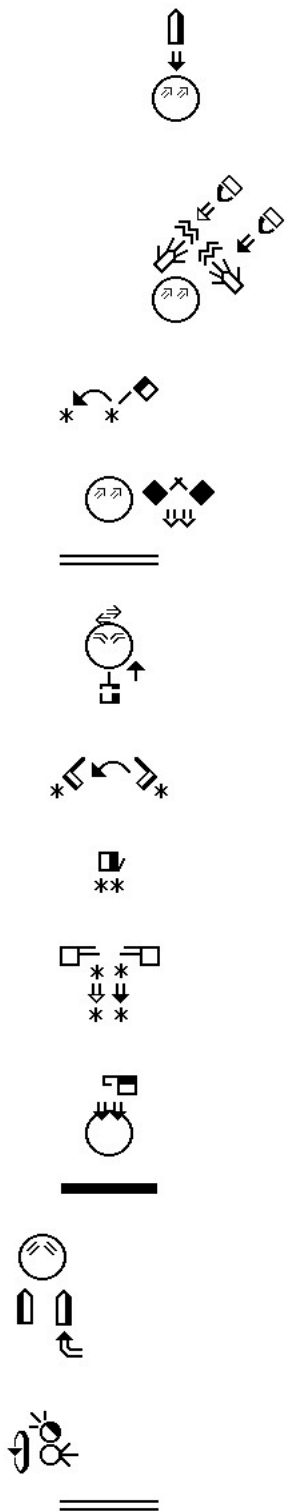
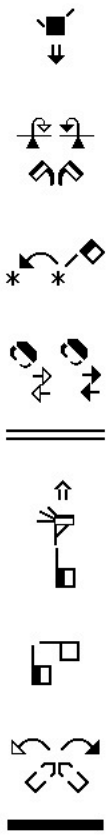
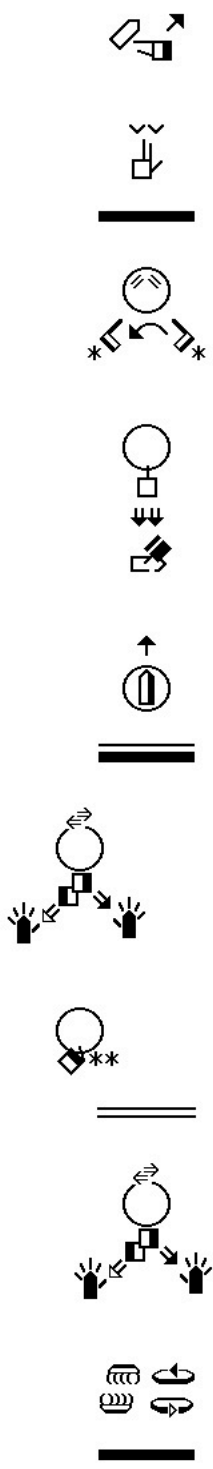
Verse 7. We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the comfort God gives us. Verse 8. We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure,

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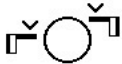













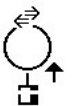



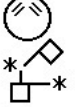

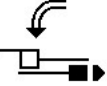









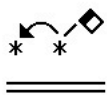
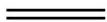


















and we thought we would never live through it. Verse 9. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. Verse 10. And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again.

NLT

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with a God-given holiness and sincerity in all our dealings. We have depended on God's grace, not on our own human wisdom. That is how we have conducted ourselves before the world, and especially toward you. Verse 13. Our letters have been straightforward, and there is nothing written between the lines and nothing you can't understand. NLT

         	              	              	            
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I hope someday you will fully understand us, Verse 14. even if you don't understand us now. Then on the day when the Lord Jesus returns, you will be proud of us in the same way we are proud of you. Verse 15. Since I was so sure of your understanding and trust, I wanted

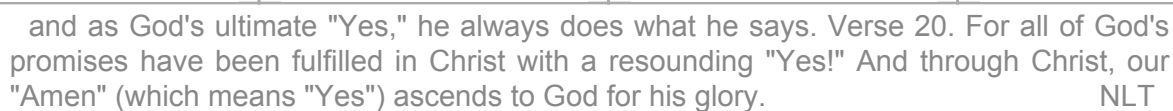
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223 to give you a double blessing by visiting you twice -- Verse 16. first on my way to Mecedonia and again when I returned from Macedonia. Then you could send me on my way to Judea. Verse 17. You may be asking why I changed my plan. Do you think I NLT

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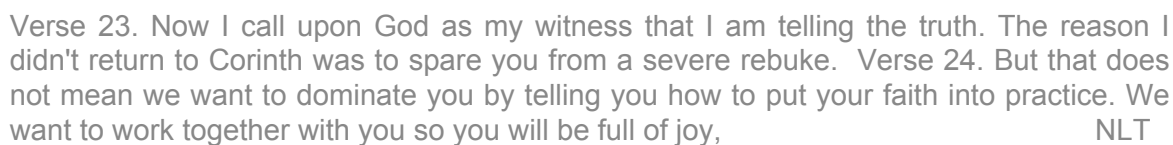
make my plans carelessly? Do you think I am like people of the world who say "Yes" when they really mean "No"? Verse 18. As surely as God is faithful, my word to you does not waver between "Yes" and "No." Verse 19. For Jesus Christ, the Son of God, does not waver between "Yes" and "No." He is the one whom Silas, Timothy, and I preached to you,



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Verse 21. It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, Verse 22. and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.

NLT



A vertical sequence of ASL signs: a solid black rectangle followed by a curved arrow pointing right; two upward-pointing arrows; a square with an upward arrow; a sun-like symbol with rays; a double horizontal line; a square with a downward arrow; a horizontal line with two triangles pointing towards each other; two hands with palms facing each other; a downward arrow; a square with a rightward arrow; and finally, two upward arrows above two small squares, with a thick horizontal line below them.			
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for it is by your own faith that you stand firm.

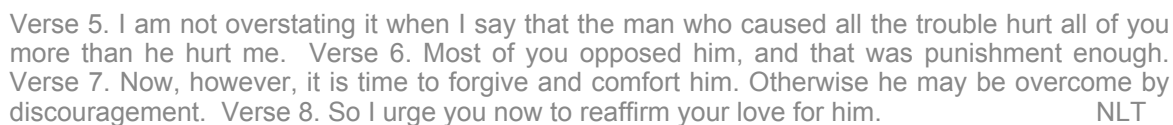
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



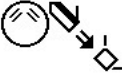












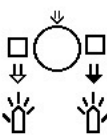





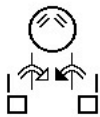

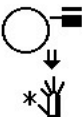


















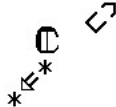





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I won't be grieved by the very ones who ought to give me the greatest joy. Surely you all know that my joy comes from your being joyful. Verse 4. I wrote that letter in great anguish, with a troubled heart and many tears. I didn't want to grieve you, but I wanted to let you know how much love I have for you.

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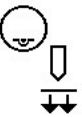


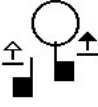



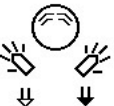


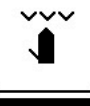


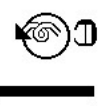




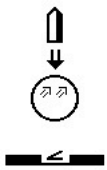



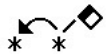








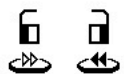


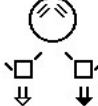
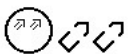


             	         	              	              
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Verse 9. I wrote to you as I did to test you and see if you would fully comply with my instructions. Verse 10. When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit, NLT

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Verse 11. so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.
 Verse 12. When I came to the city of Troas to preach the Good News of Christ, the Lord
 opened a door of opportunity for me. Verse 13. But I had no peace of mind because my
 dear brother

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Titus hadn't yet arrived with a report from you. So I said good-bye and went on to Macedonia to find him. Verse 14. But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now he uses us

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to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. Verse 15. Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing. Verse 16. To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those NLT

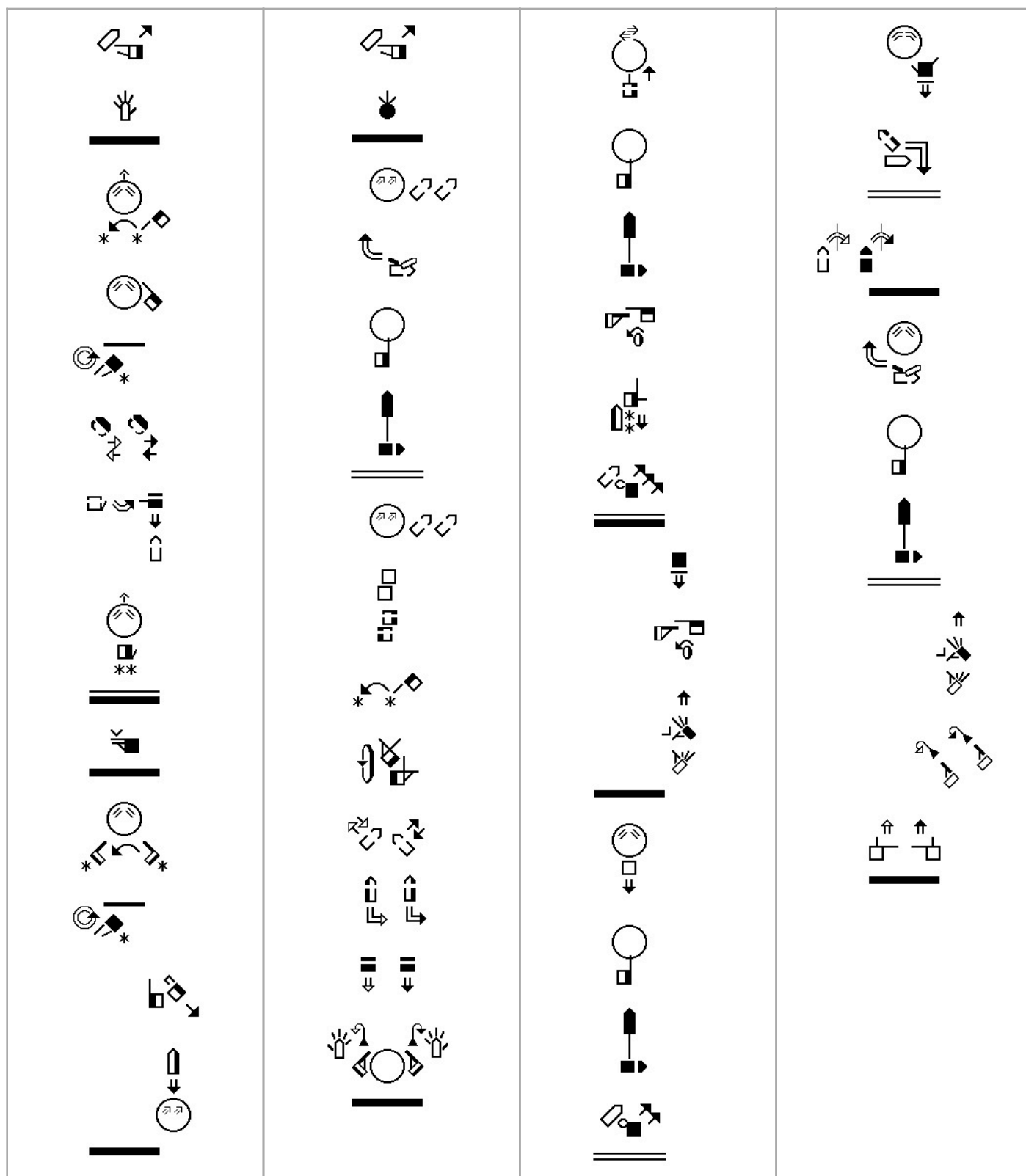
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who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume. And who is adequate for such a task as this? Verse 17. You see, we are not like the many hucksters who preach for personal profit. We preach the word of God with sincerity and with Christ's authority, knowing that God is watching us.

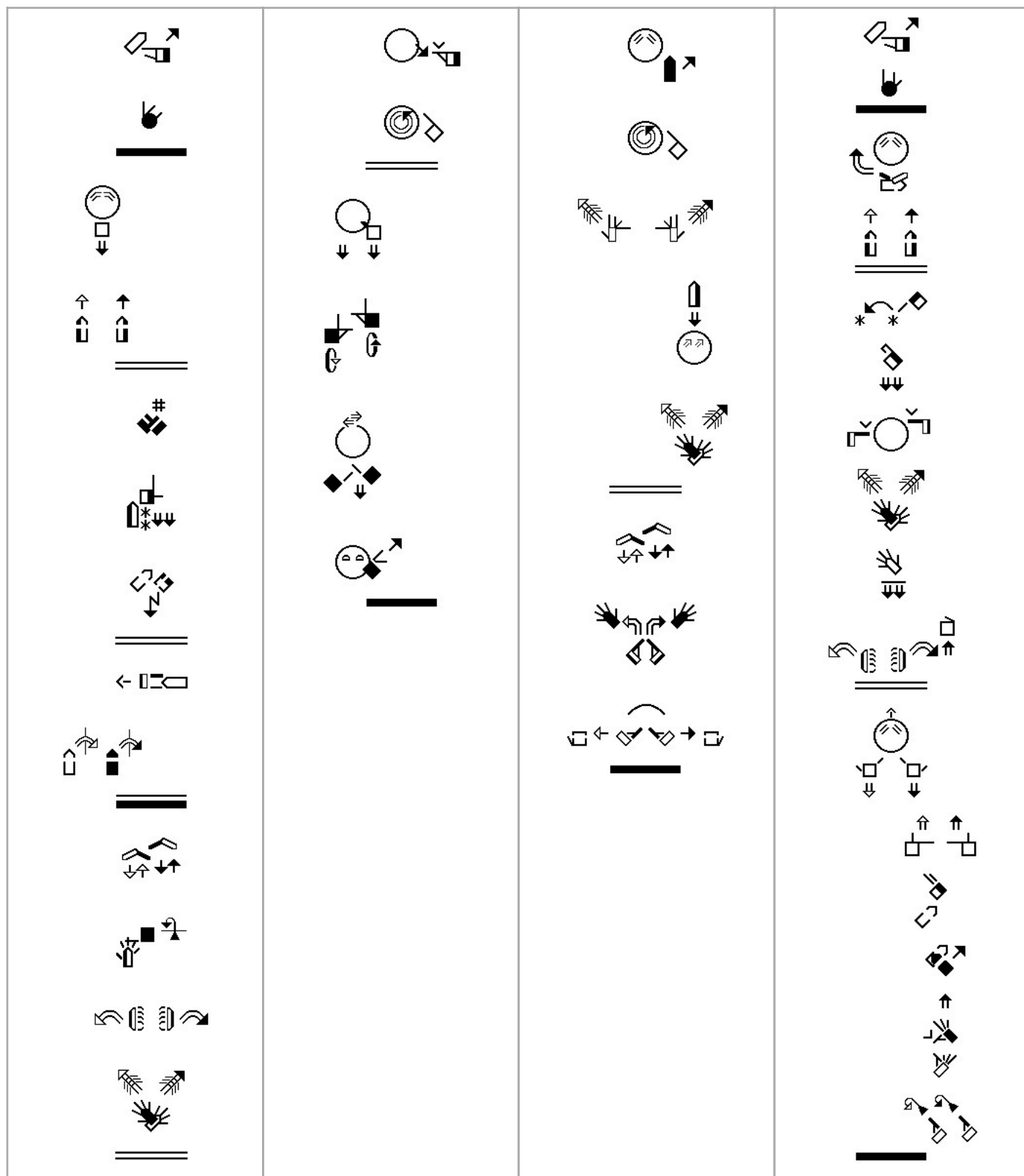
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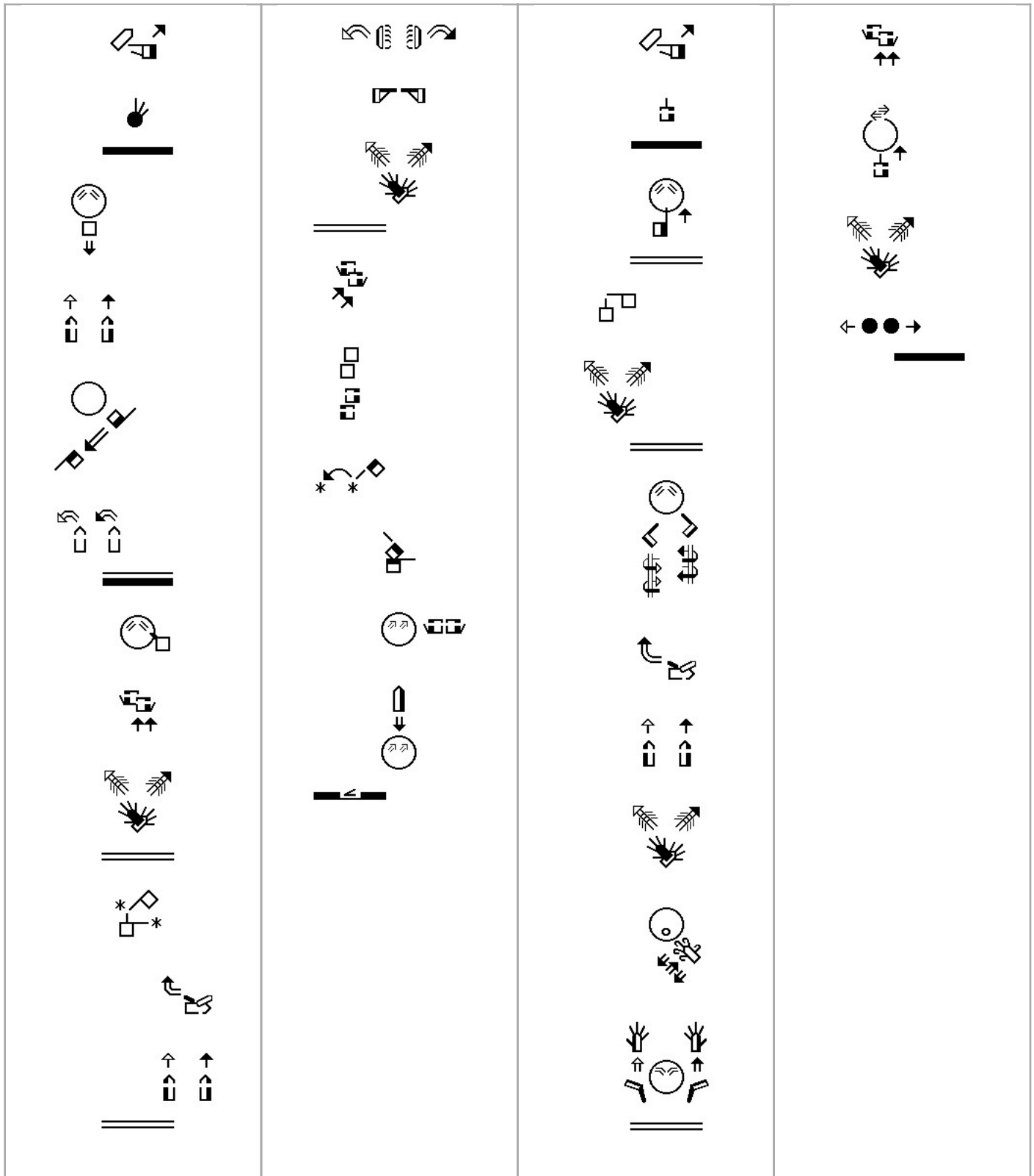
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Verse 5. It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. Verse 6. He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life. NLT



Verse 7. The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of God, even though the brightness was already fading away. Verse 8. Shouldn't we expect far greater glory under the new way, now that the Holy Spirit is giving life? NLT

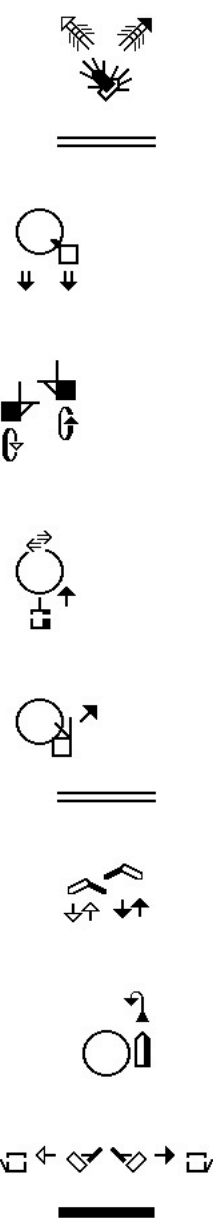
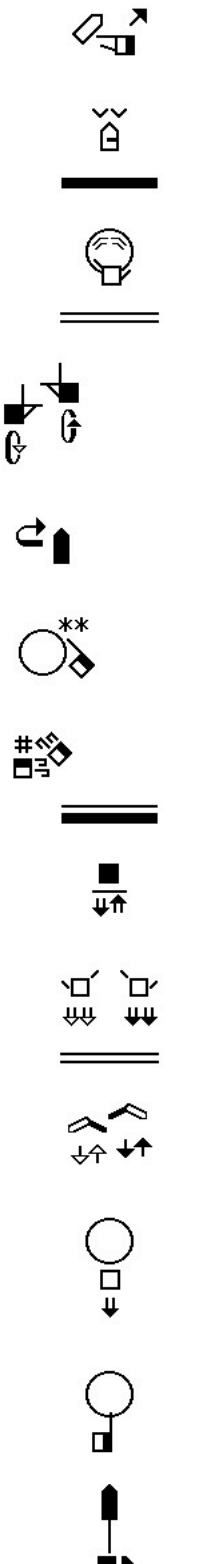

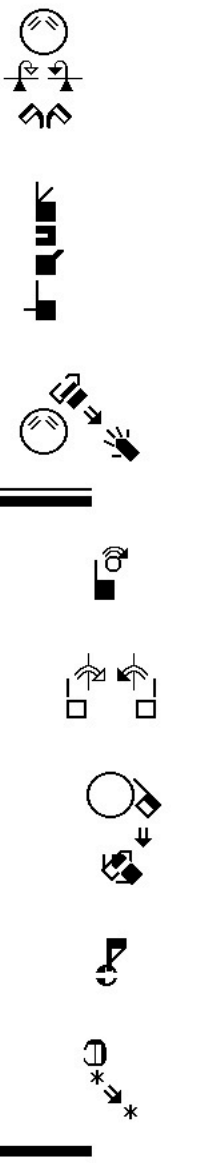


Verse 9. If the old way, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new way, which makes us right with God! Verse 10. In fact, that first glory was not glorious at all compared with the overwhelming glory of the new way. NLT

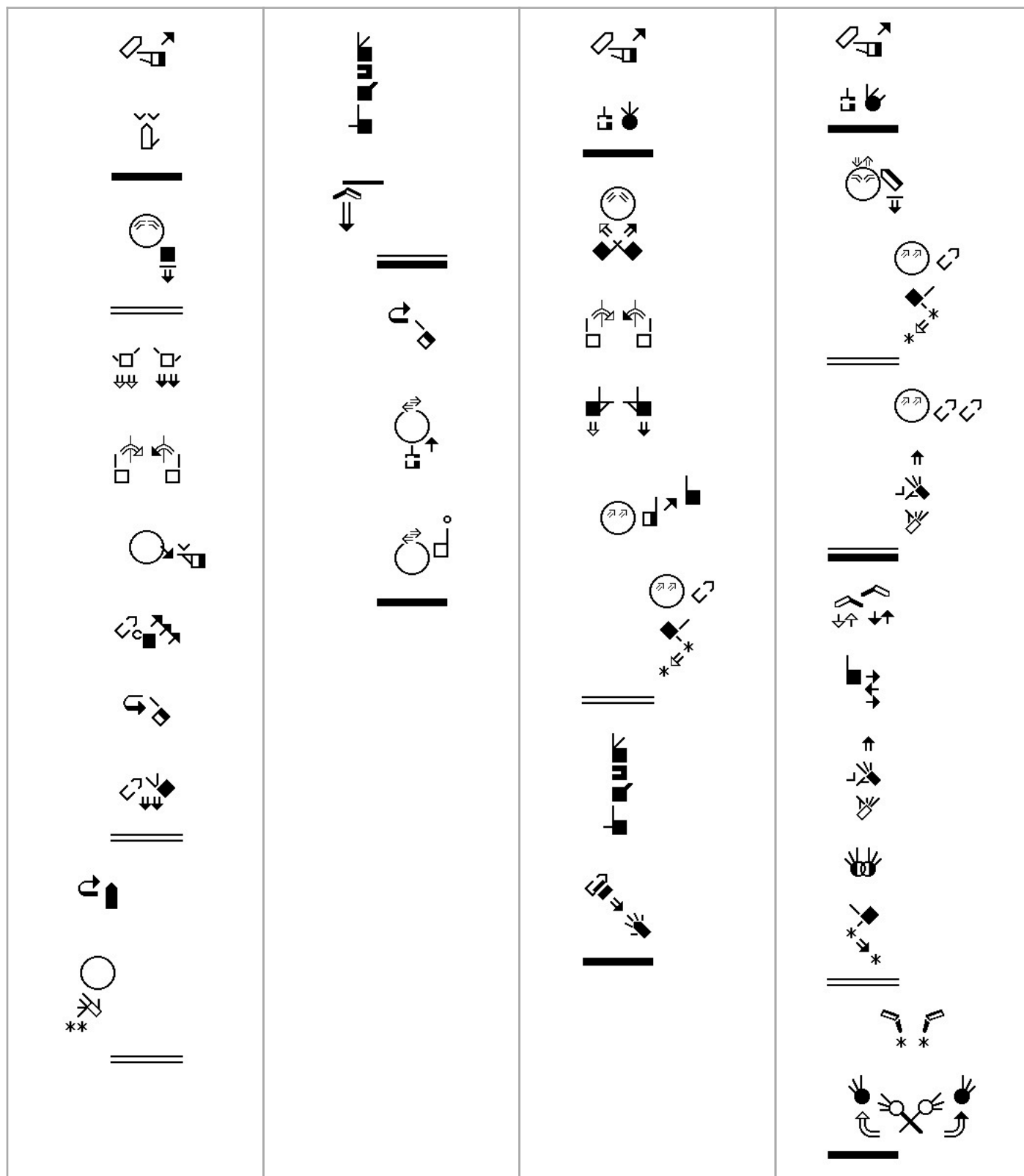
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Verse 11. So if the old way, which has been replaced, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new, which remains forever! Verse 12. Since this new way gives us such confidence, we can be very bold. Verse 13. We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face




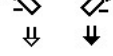



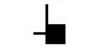



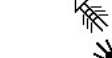






























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so the people of Israel would not see the glory, even though it was destined to fade away. Verse 14. But the people's minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ. NLT



Verse 15. Yes, even today when they read Moses' writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand. Verse 16. But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Verse 17. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. NLT

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Verse 18. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord -- who is the Spirit -- makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image. NLT

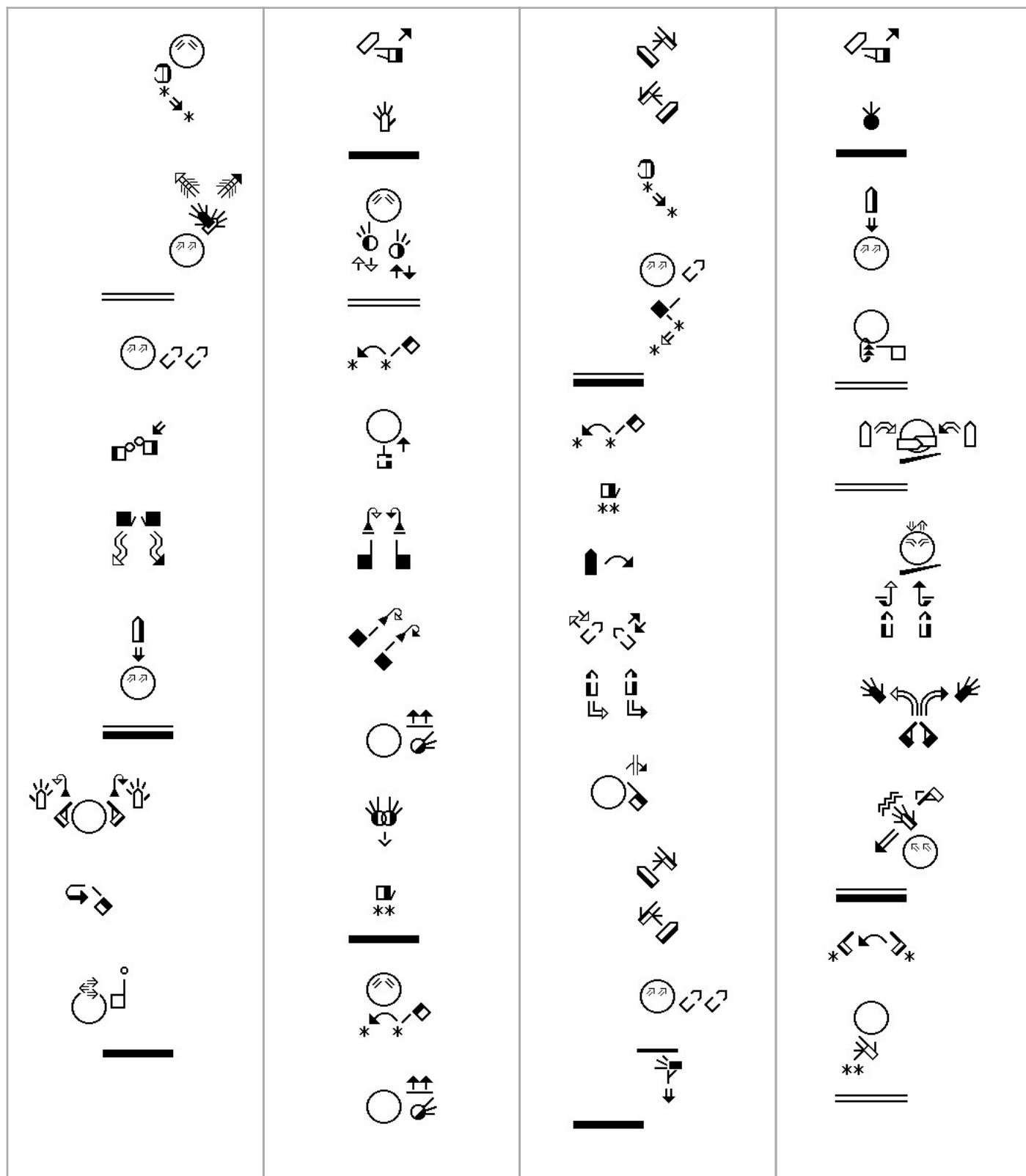
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Chapter 4. Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way, we never give up. Verse 2. We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this.

NLT

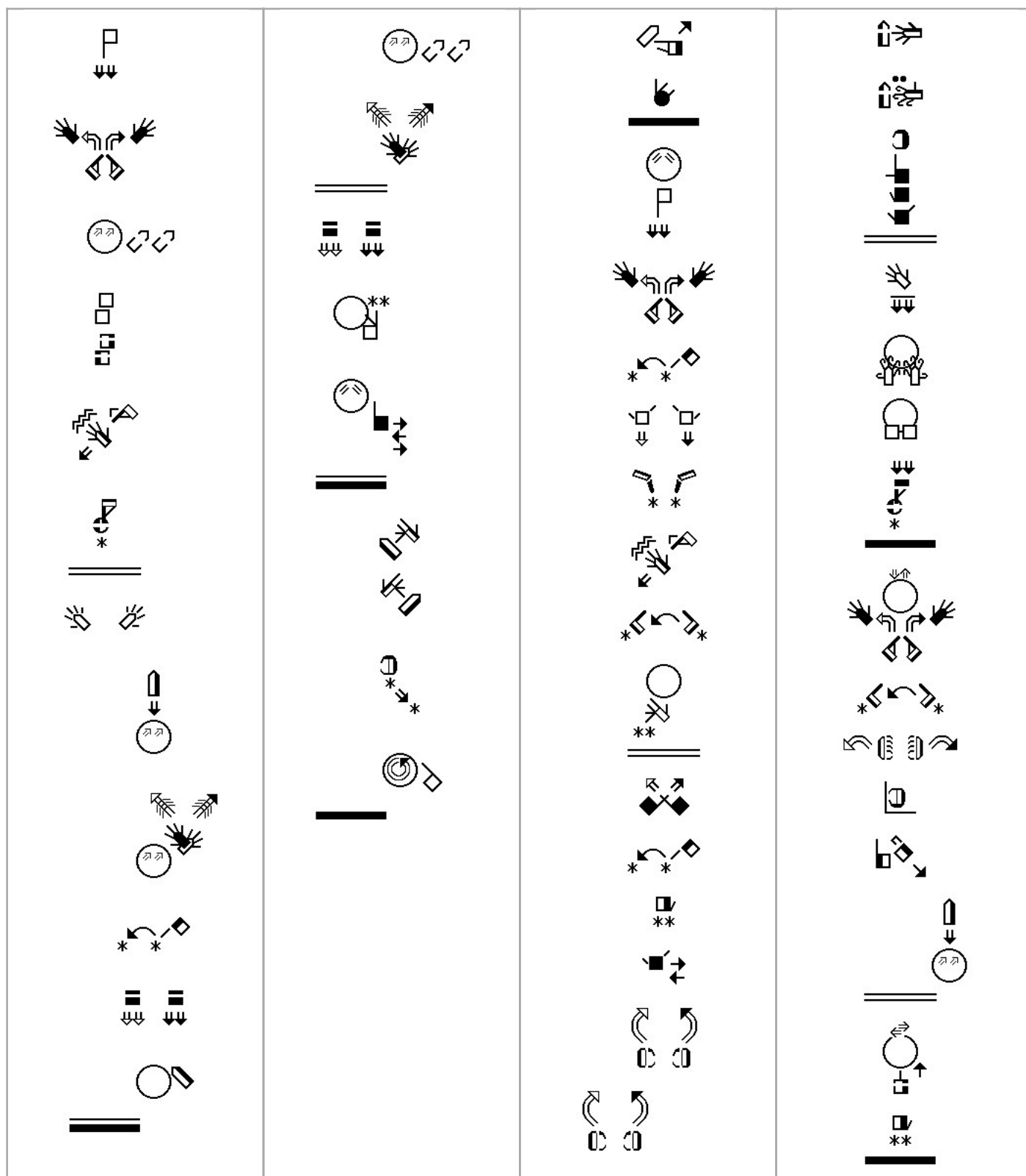
Verse 3. If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Verse 4. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News.

NLT



They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. Verse 5. You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. Verse 6. For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness,"

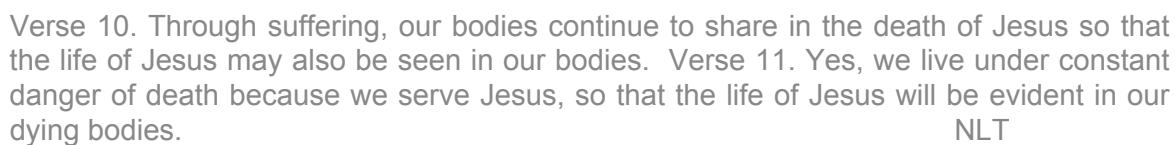
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has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. Verse 7. We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

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





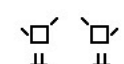


















































Verse 12. So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you.
 Verse 13. But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke." Verse 14. We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will

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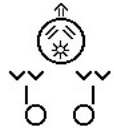

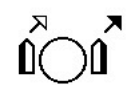


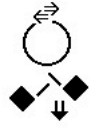

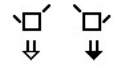














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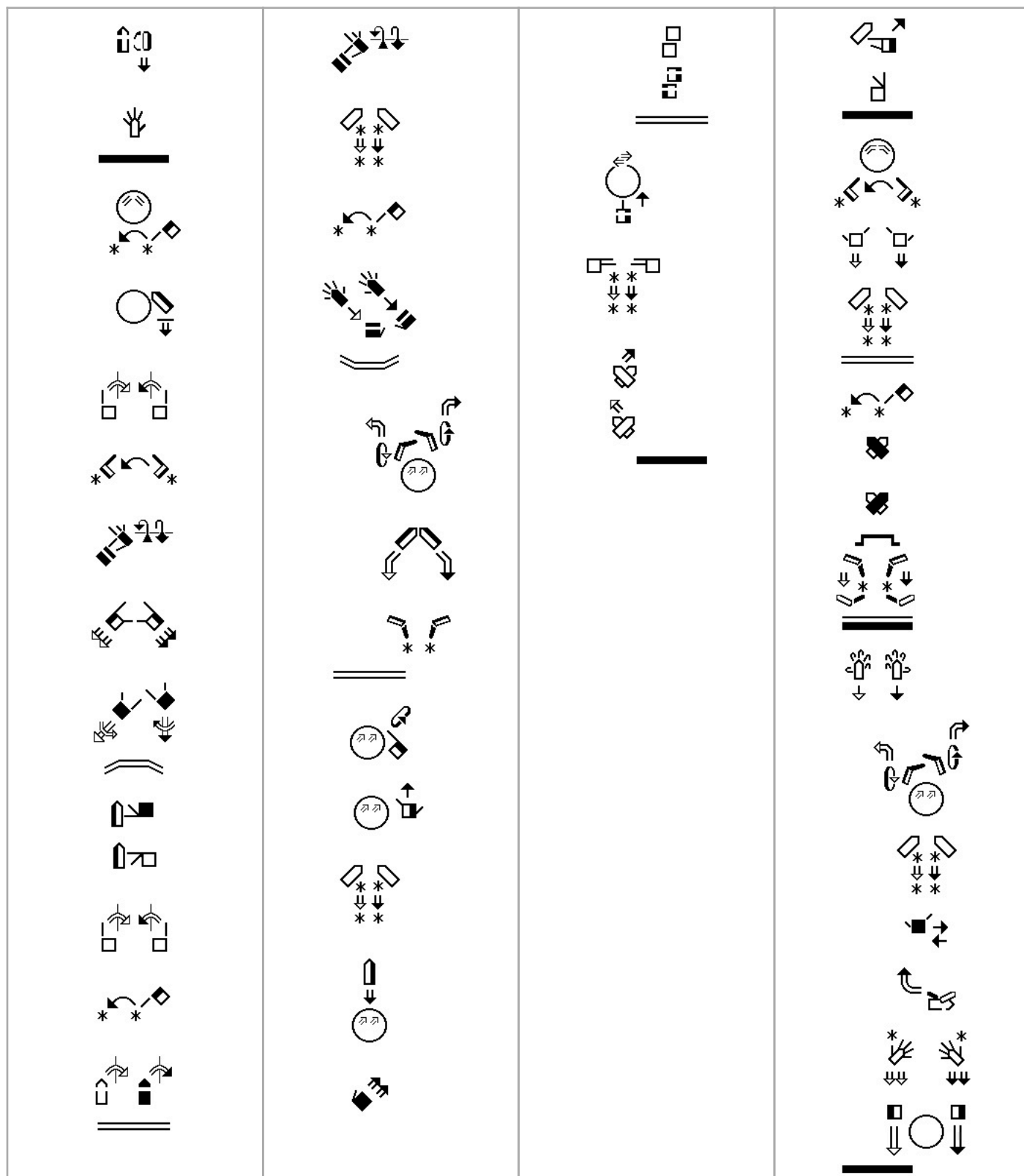
also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. Verse 15. All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. Verse 16. That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying,

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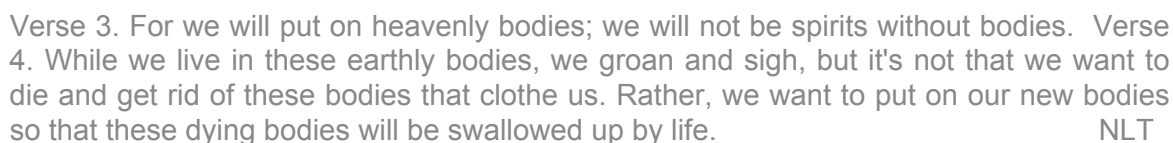
                  	                  	                  	                 
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our spirits are being renewed every day. Verse 17. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! Verse 18. So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; NLT

         	            		
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Chapter 5. For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. Verse 2. We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. NLT



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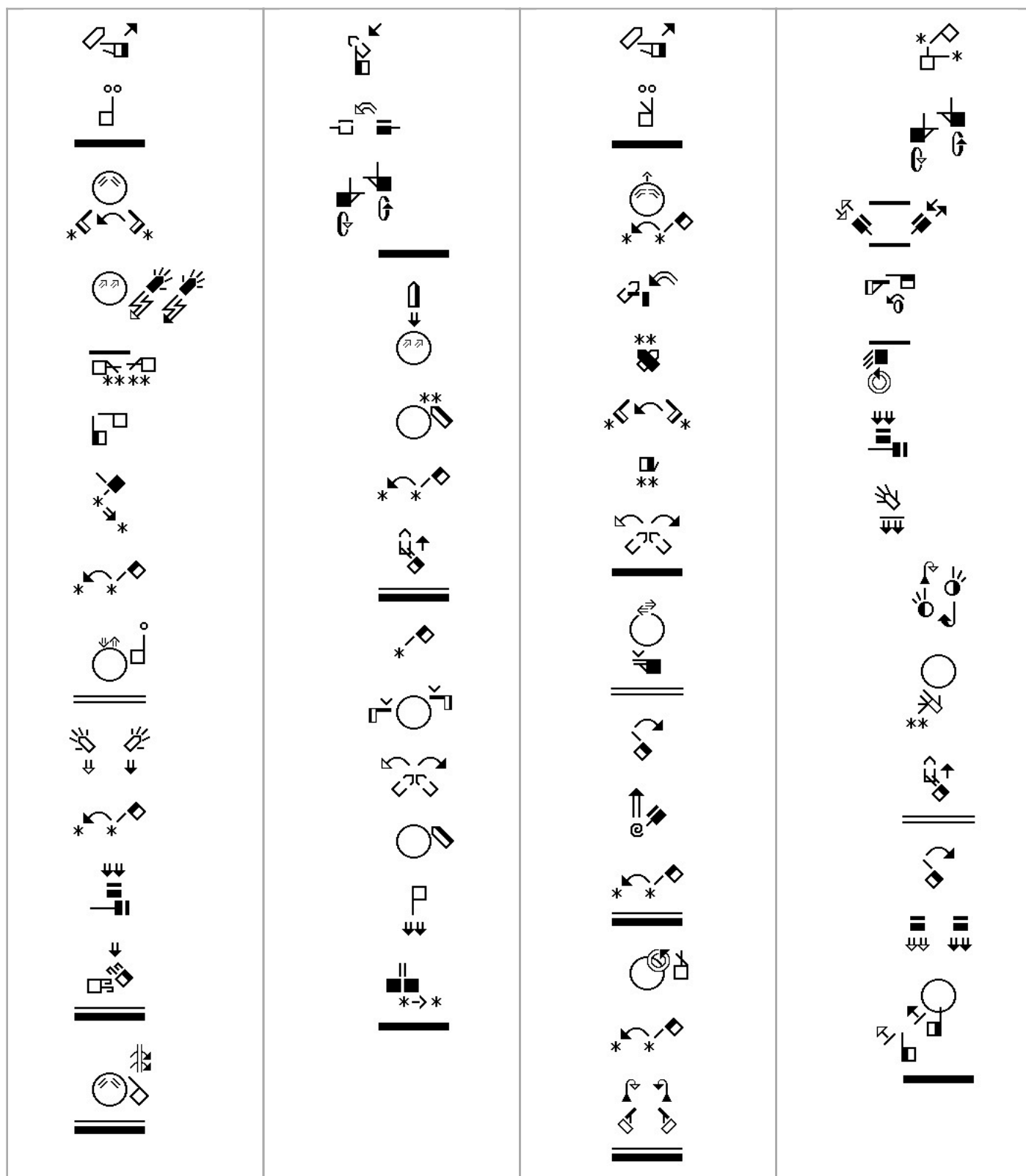
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Verse 7. For we live by believing and not by seeing. Verse 8. Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. Verse 9. So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, NLT

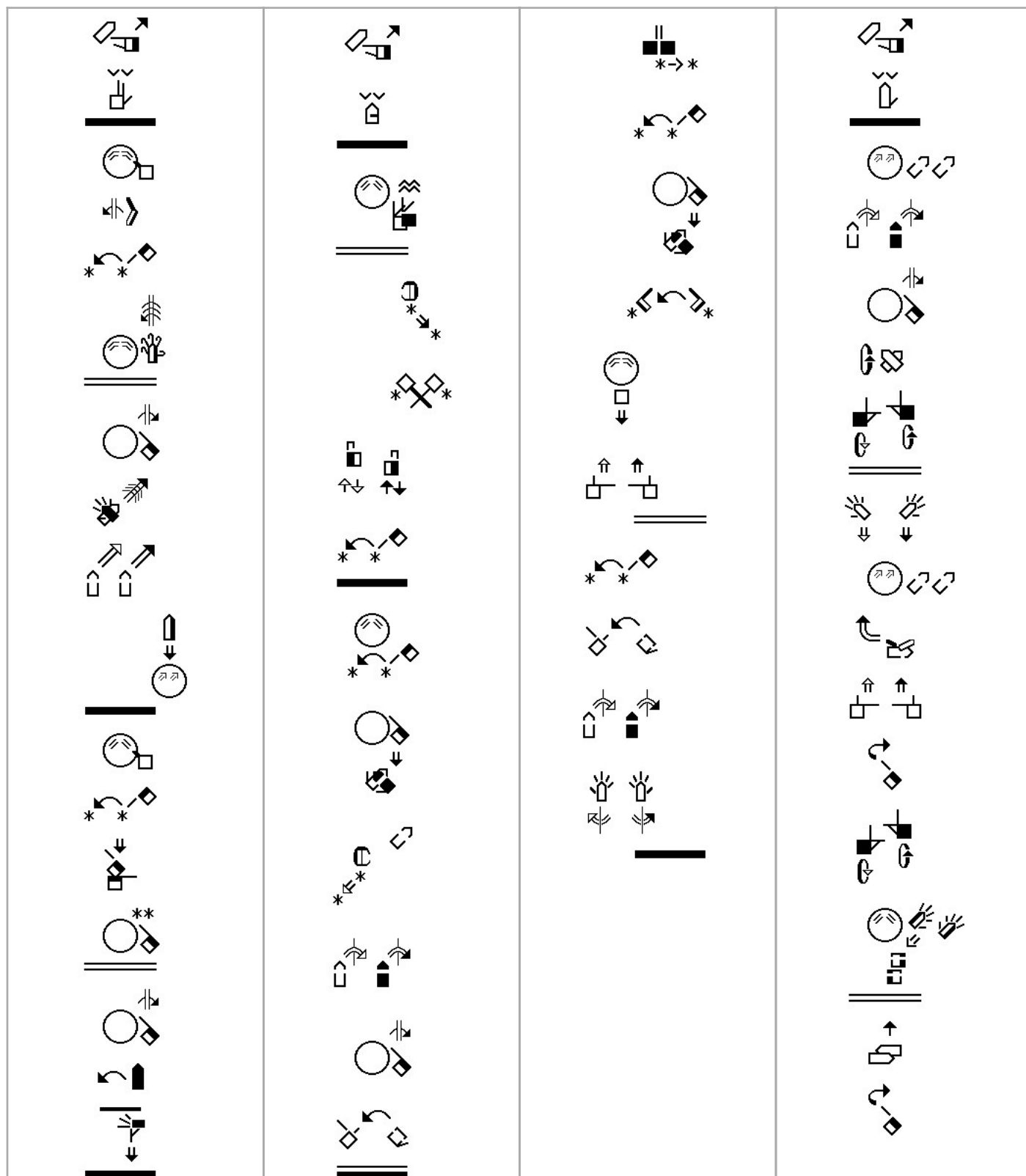
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our goal is to please him. Verse 10. For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

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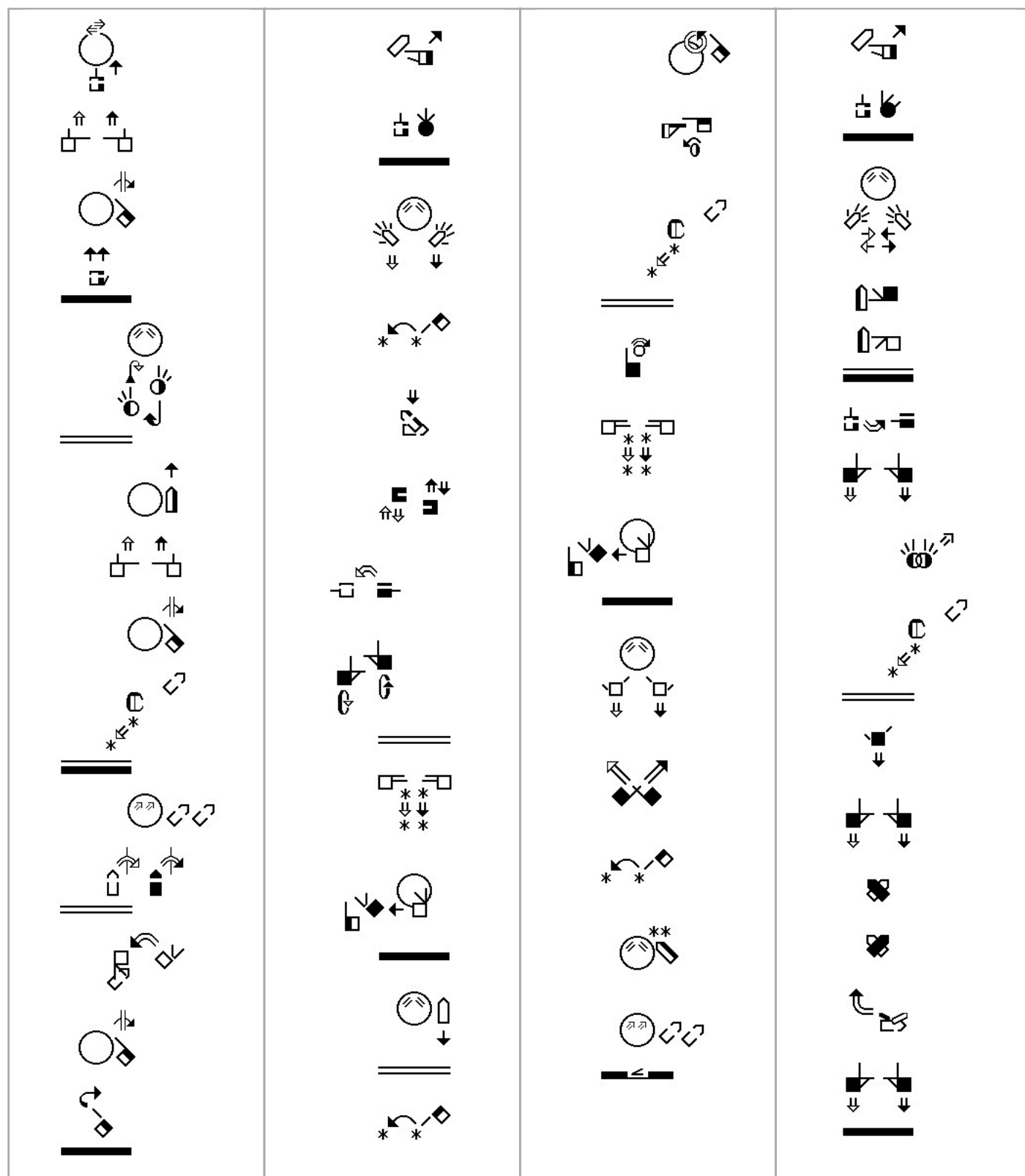


Verse 11. Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this, too. Verse 12. Are we commending ourselves to you again? No, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us so you can answer those who brag about having a spectacular ministry rather than having a sincere heart. NLT



Verse 13. If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit. Verse 14. Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. Verse 15. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life

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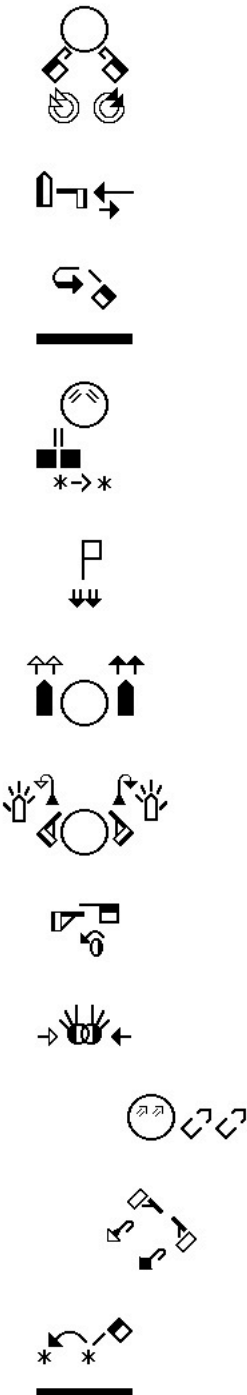
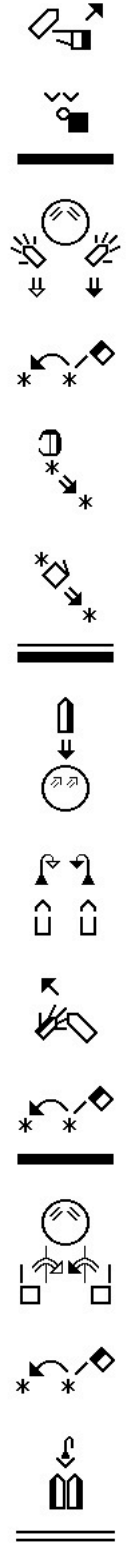
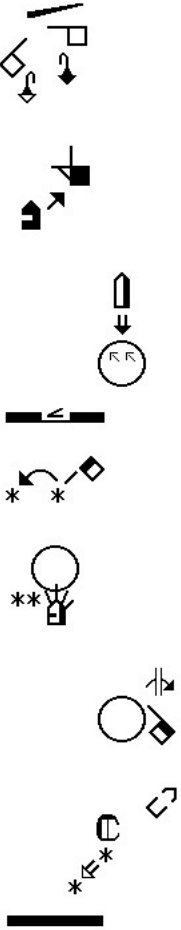
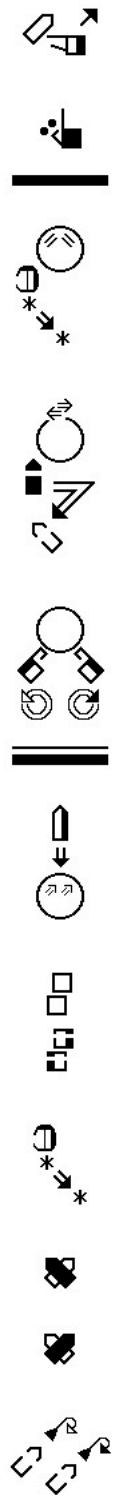


will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. Verse 16. So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! Verse 17. This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. NLT

<p>ASL signs for 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, Column 1. The sequence includes signs for 'new', 'life', 'begin', 'gift', 'God', 'brought', 'back', 'himself', 'through', 'Christ', 'God', 'given', 'us', 'task', 'reconciling', 'people', 'him', 'God', 'was', 'in', 'Christ', 'reconciling', 'world', 'himself', 'no', 'longer', 'counting', 'people's'.</p>	<p>ASL signs for 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, Column 2. The sequence includes signs for 'new', 'life', 'begin', 'gift', 'God', 'brought', 'back', 'himself', 'through', 'Christ', 'God', 'given', 'us', 'task', 'reconciling', 'people', 'him', 'God', 'was', 'in', 'Christ', 'reconciling', 'world', 'himself', 'no', 'longer', 'counting', 'people's'.</p>	<p>ASL signs for 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, Column 3. The sequence includes signs for 'new', 'life', 'begin', 'gift', 'God', 'brought', 'back', 'himself', 'through', 'Christ', 'God', 'given', 'us', 'task', 'reconciling', 'people', 'him', 'God', 'was', 'in', 'Christ', 'reconciling', 'world', 'himself', 'no', 'longer', 'counting', 'people's'.</p>	<p>ASL signs for 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, Column 4. The sequence includes signs for 'new', 'life', 'begin', 'gift', 'God', 'brought', 'back', 'himself', 'through', 'Christ', 'God', 'given', 'us', 'task', 'reconciling', 'people', 'him', 'God', 'was', 'in', 'Christ', 'reconciling', 'world', 'himself', 'no', 'longer', 'counting', 'people's'.</p>
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The old life is gone; a new life has begun! Verse 18. And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. Verse 19. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's

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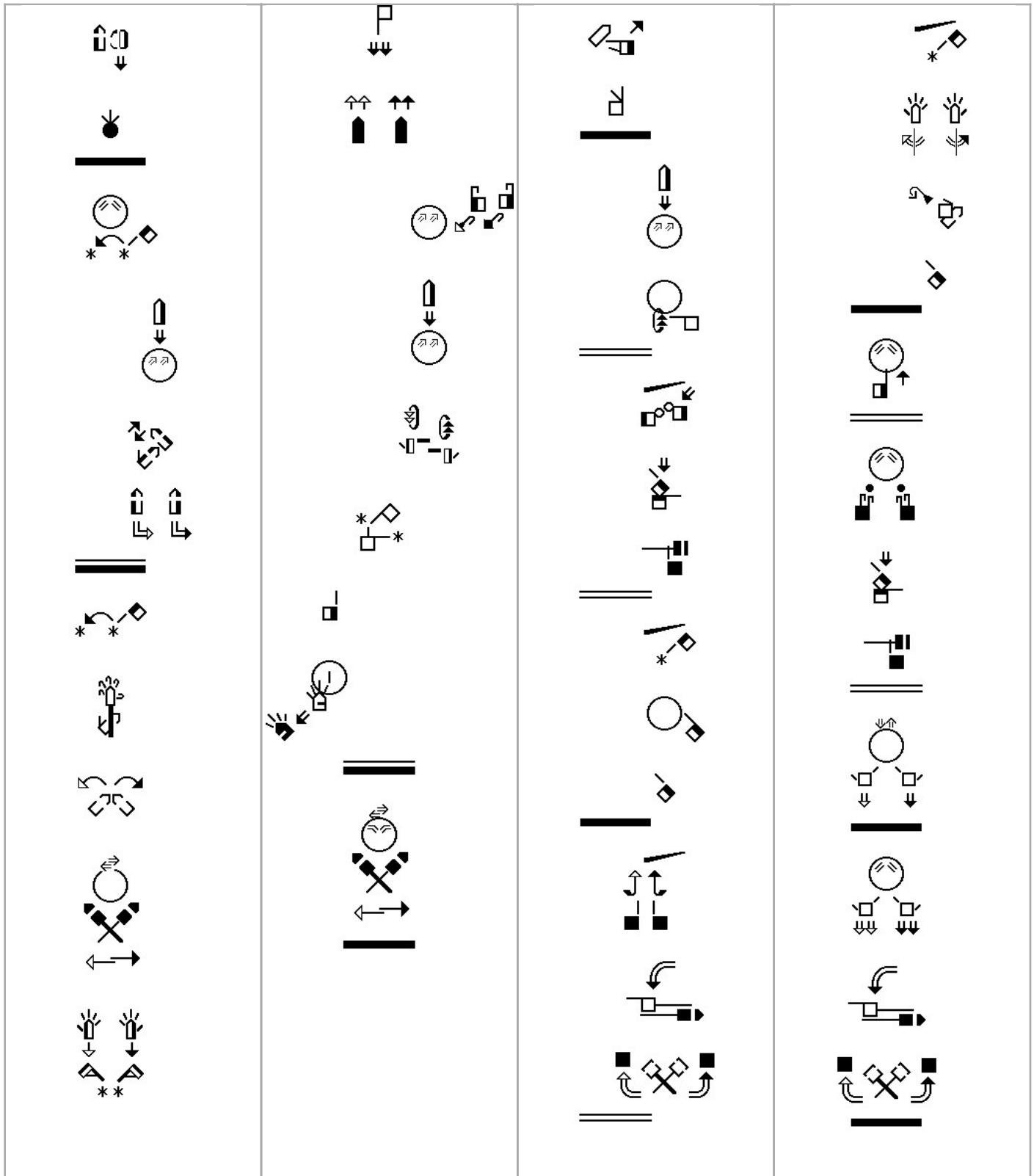
sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. Verse 20. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" Verse 21. For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering

NLT

 <p>The first column contains 14 ASL signs arranged vertically. From top to bottom: 1. A circle with a hand pointing to it. 2. Two hands with asterisks, one pointing up and one pointing down. 3. A circle with two hands pointing to it, one from the left and one from the right. 4. Two horizontal lines. 5. Two hands, one pointing up and one pointing down. 6. Two hands with asterisks, one pointing up and one pointing down. 7. Two hands, one pointing up and one pointing down. 8. A hand pointing up. 9. A hand pointing down. 10. A hand pointing up. 11. A hand pointing down. 12. A hand pointing up. 13. A hand pointing down. 14. A hand pointing up.</p>			
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













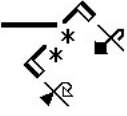

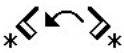

















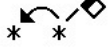


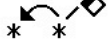









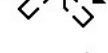





















for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

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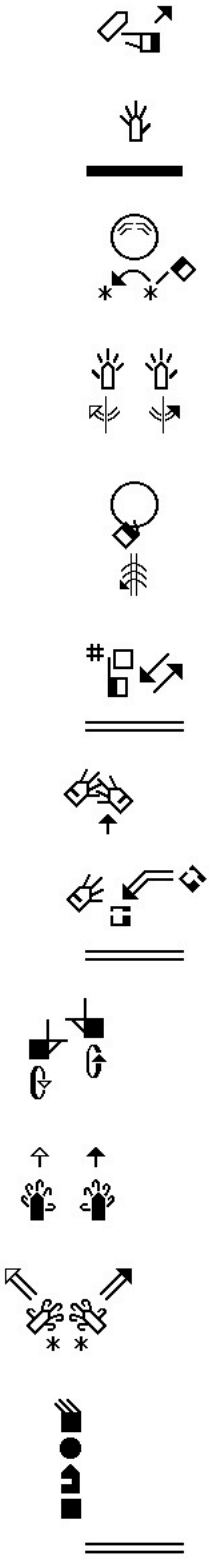
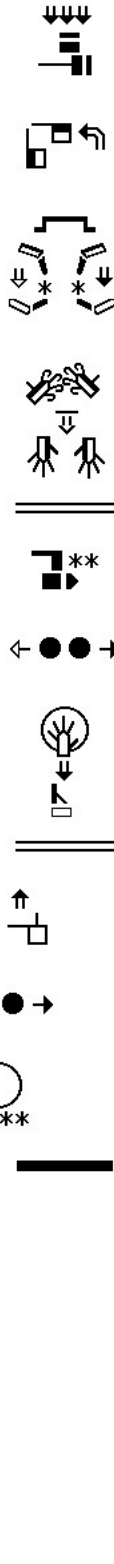
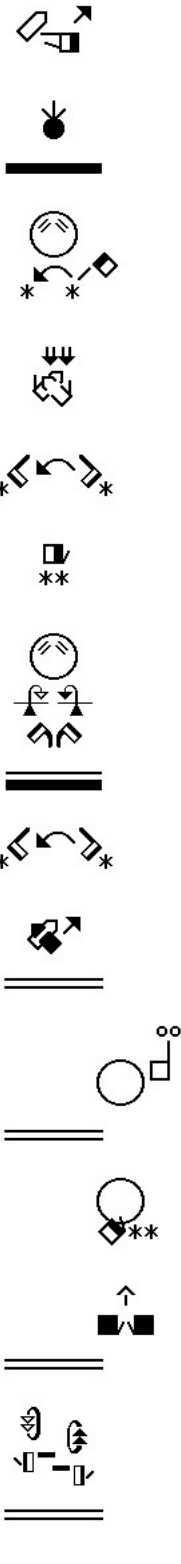
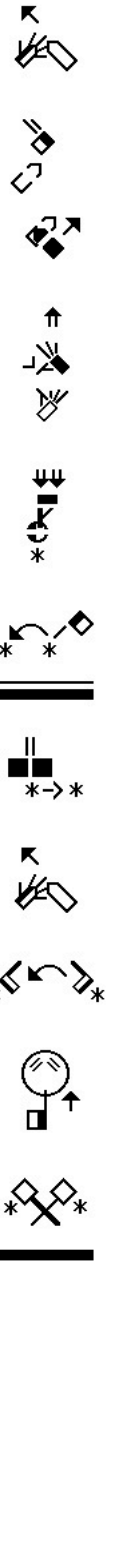
Chapter 6. As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it. Verse 2. For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation.

NLT

               	           	                     	                  
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Verse 3. We live in such a way that no one will stumble because of us, and no one will find fault with our ministry. Verse 4. In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God. We patiently endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind.

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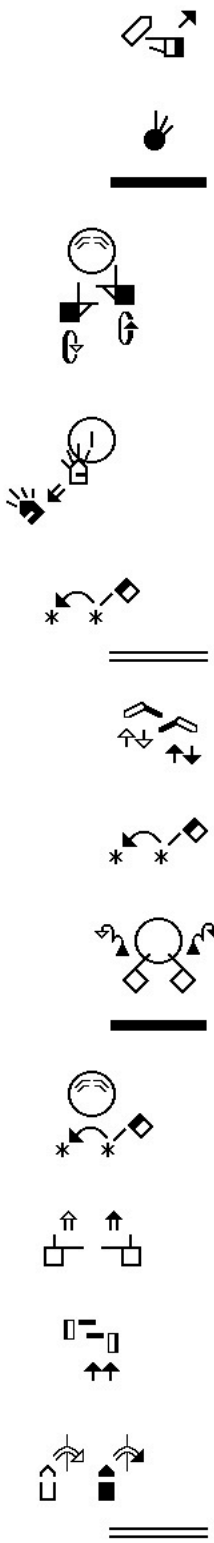
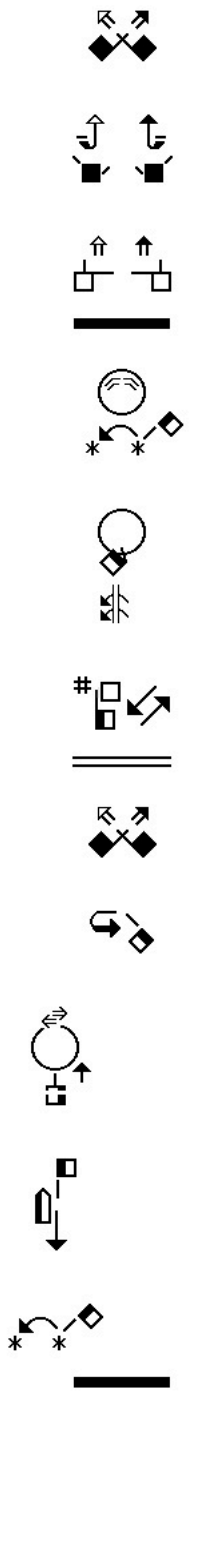
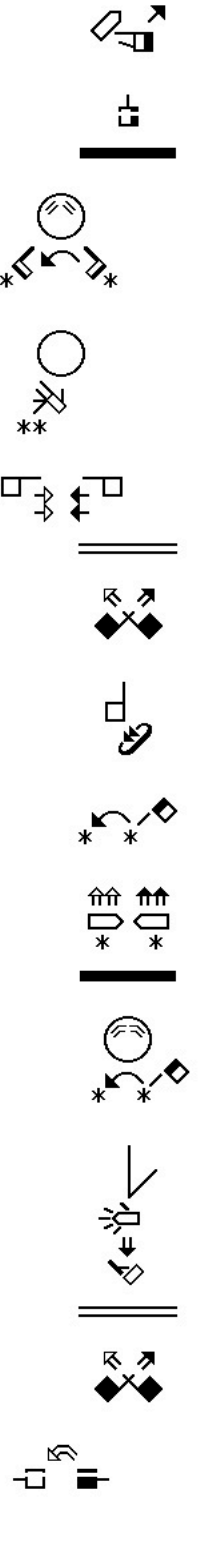
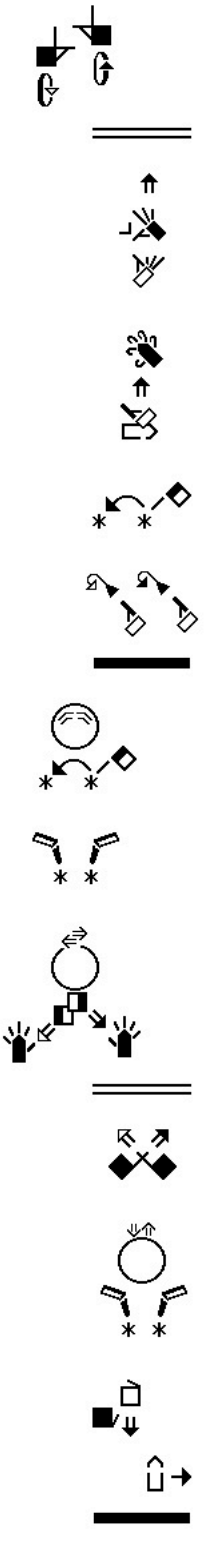
			
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Verse 5. We have been beaten, been put in prison, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, endured sleepless nights, and gone without food. Verse 6. We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love.

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Verse 7. We faithfully preach the truth. God's power is working in us. We use the weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defense. Verse 8. We serve God whether people honor us or despise us, whether they slander us or praise us. We are honest, but they call us impostors. NLT

			
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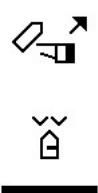
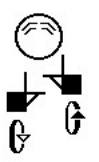
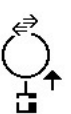
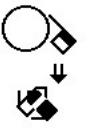
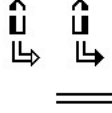




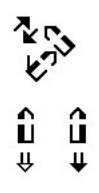
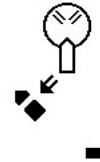

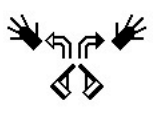
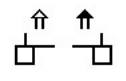


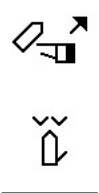
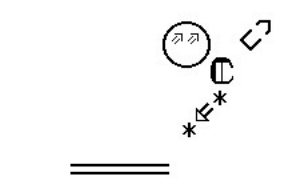
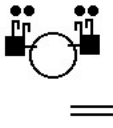

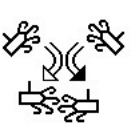
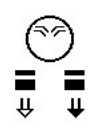

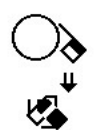
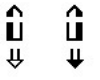
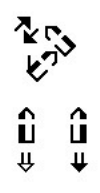
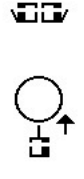
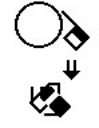


Verse 9. We are ignored, even though we are well known. We live close to death, but we are still alive. We have been beaten, but we have not been killed. Verse 10. Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything.

NLT

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Verse 11. Oh, dear Corinthian friends! We have spoken honestly with you, and our hearts are open to you. Verse 12. There is no lack of love on our part, but you have withheld your love from us. Verse 13. I am asking you to respond as if you were my own children. Open your hearts to us!

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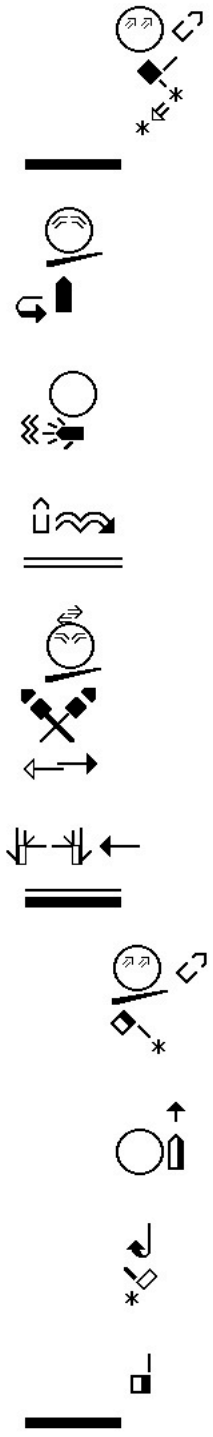
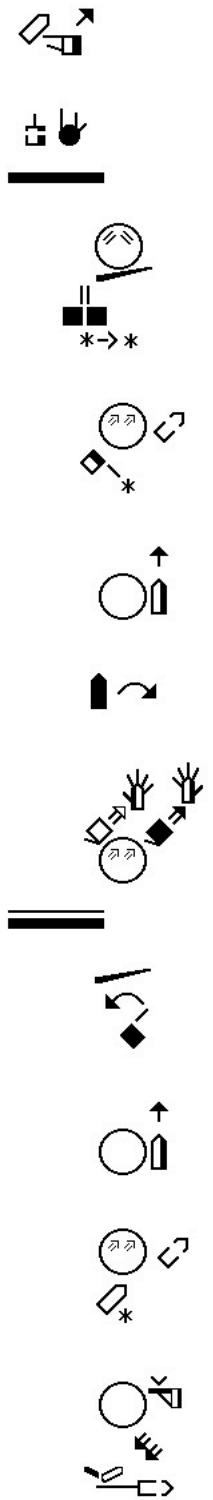
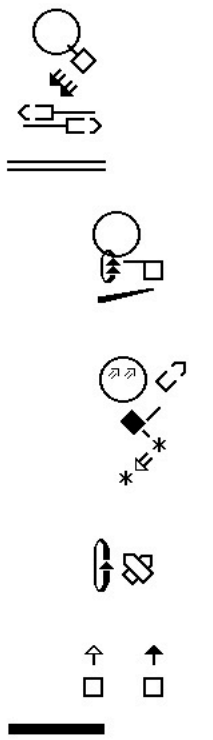
        	      	        	    
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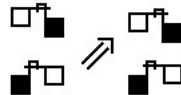



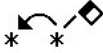
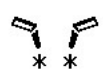

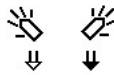










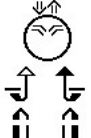


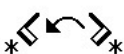




























Verse 14. Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? Verse 15. What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever?

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Verse 16. And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Verse 17. Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says NLT

			
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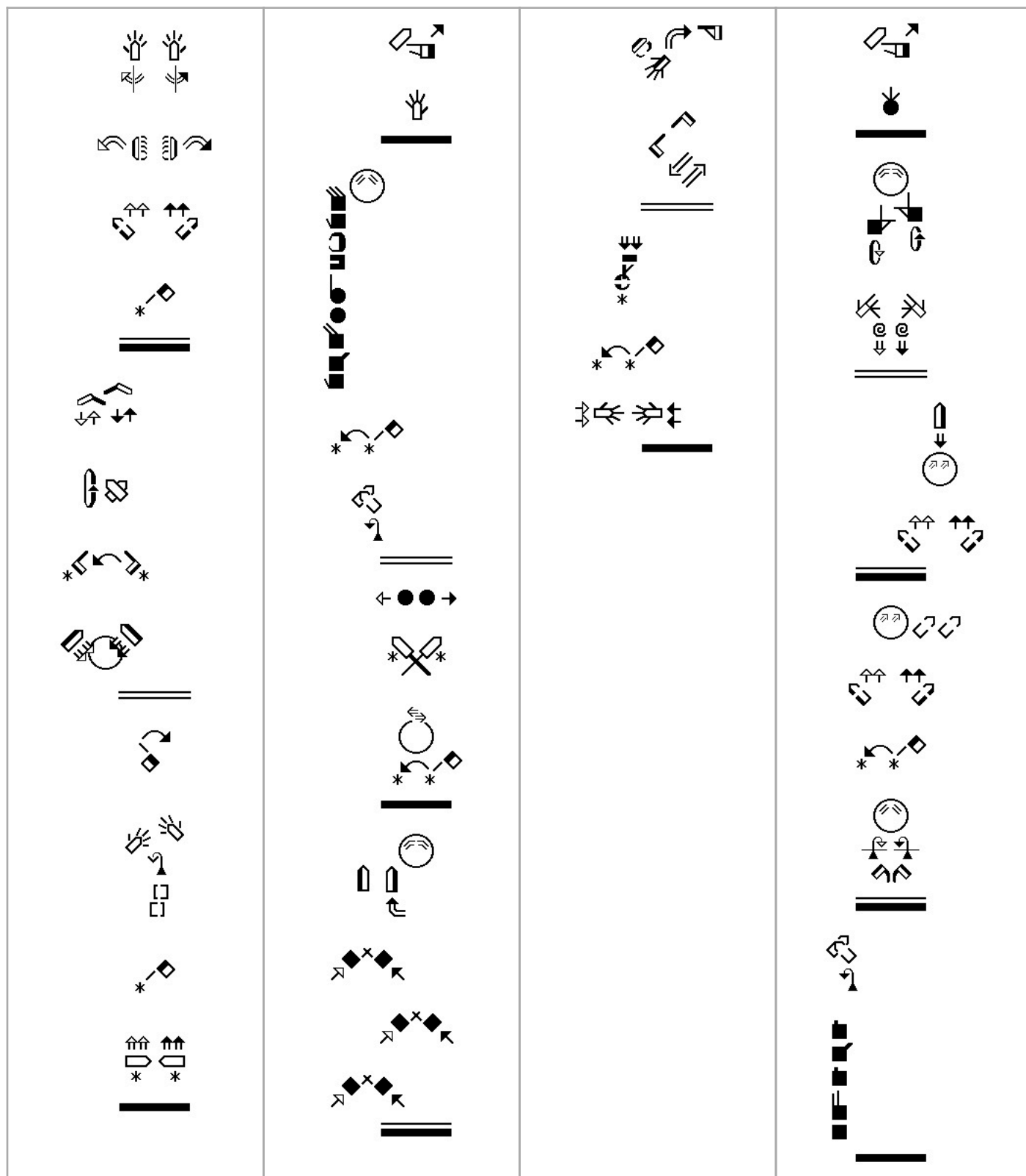
               	            	           	             
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Chapter 7. Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God. Verse 2. Please open your hearts to us. We have not done wrong to anyone,

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nor led anyone astray, nor taken advantage of anyone. Verse 3. I'm not saying this to condemn you. I said before that you are in our hearts, and we live or die together with you. Verse 4. I have the highest confidence in you, and I take great pride in you. You NLT











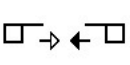





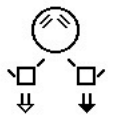




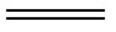






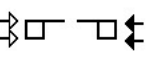
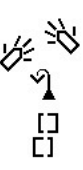






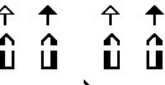






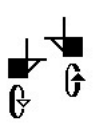


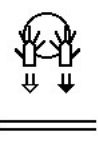



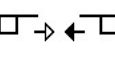





have greatly encouraged me and made me happy despite all our troubles. Verse 5. When we arrived in Macedonia, there was no rest for us. We faced conflict from every direction, with battles on the outside and fear on the inside. Verse 6. But God, who encourages those who are discouraged, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus. NLT

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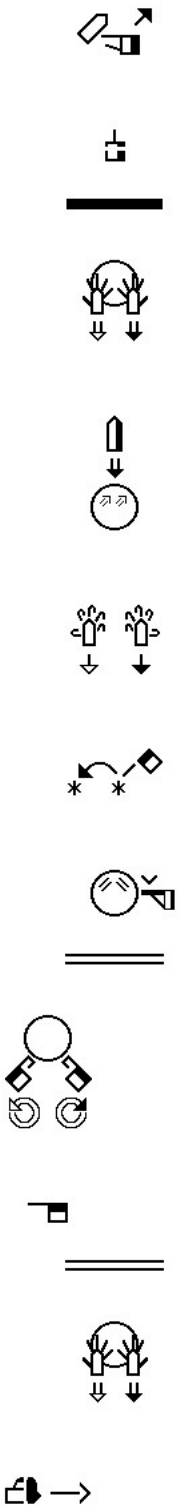
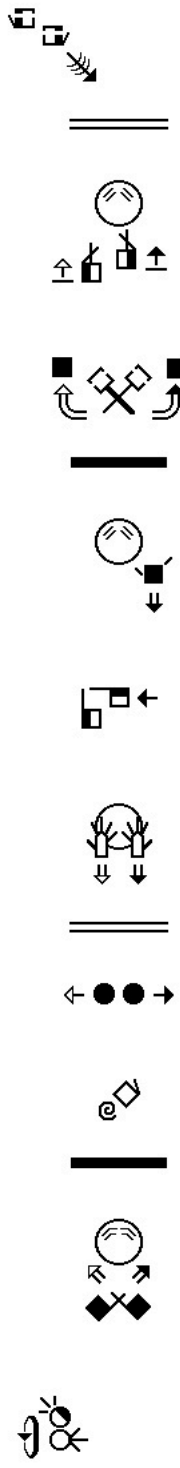
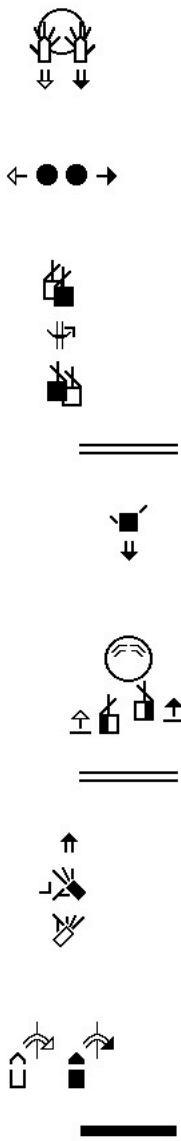
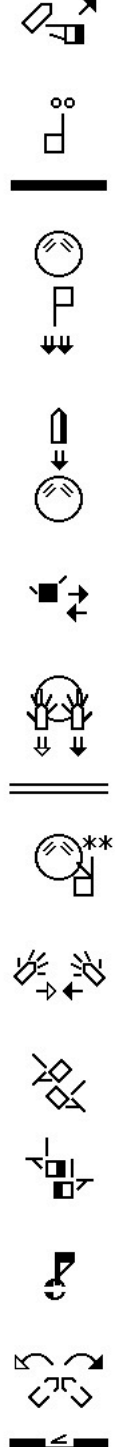
Verse 7. His presence was a joy, but so was the news he brought of the encouragement he received from you. When he told us how much you long to see me, and how sorry you are for what happened, and how loyal you are to me, I was filled with joy! Verse 8. I am not sorry that I sent that severe letter to you,

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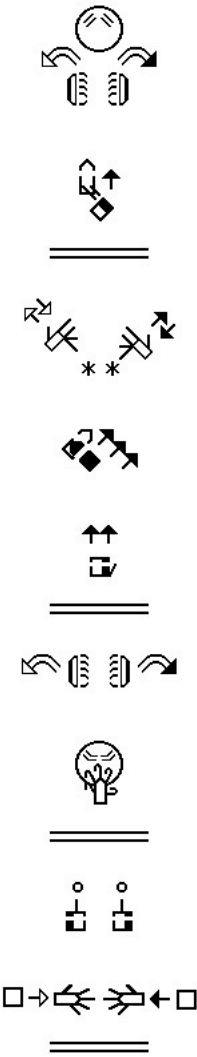


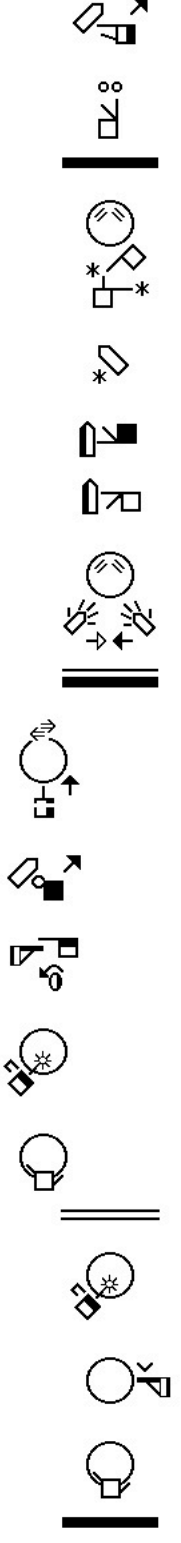
though I was sorry at first, for I know it was painful to you for a little while. Verse 9. Now I am glad I sent it, not because it hurt you, but because the pain caused you to repent and change your ways. It was the kind of sorrow God wants his people to have, so you were not harmed by us in any way.

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Verse 10. For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death. Verse 11. Just see what this godly sorrow produced in you!








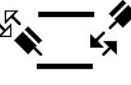

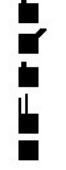


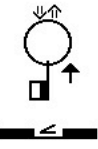


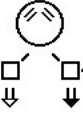

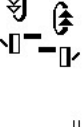



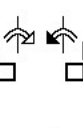


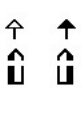








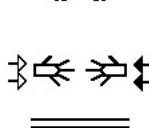
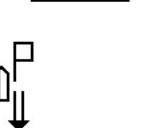
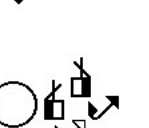



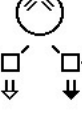

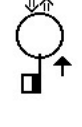
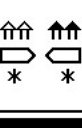








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Such earnestness, such concern to clear yourselves, such indignation, such alarm, much longing to see me, such zeal, and such a readiness to punish wrong. You showed that you have done everything necessary to make things right. Verse 12. My purpose, then, was not to write about who did the wrong or who was wronged. NLT

I wrote to you so that in the sight of God you could see for yourselves how loyal you are to us. Verse 13. We have been greatly encouraged by this. In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was about the way all of you welcomed him and set his mind at ease. Verse 14. I had told him how proud I was of you -- and you didn't disappoint me. I

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

























































            	            	          	             
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have always told you the truth, and now my boasting to Titus has also proved true! Verse 15. Now he cares for you more than ever when he remembers the way all of you obeyed him and welcomed him with such fear and deep respect. Verse 16. I am very happy now because I have complete confidence in you. NLT

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Chapter 8. Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. Verse 2. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

NLT

               	                  	               	               
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Verse 3. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. Verse 4. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. Verse 5. They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action

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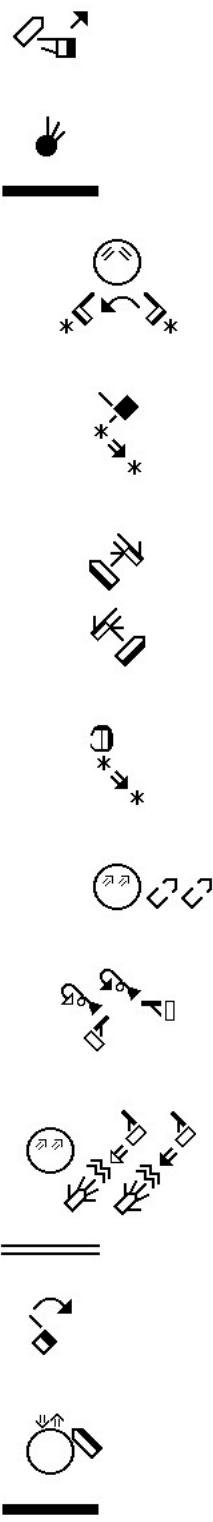
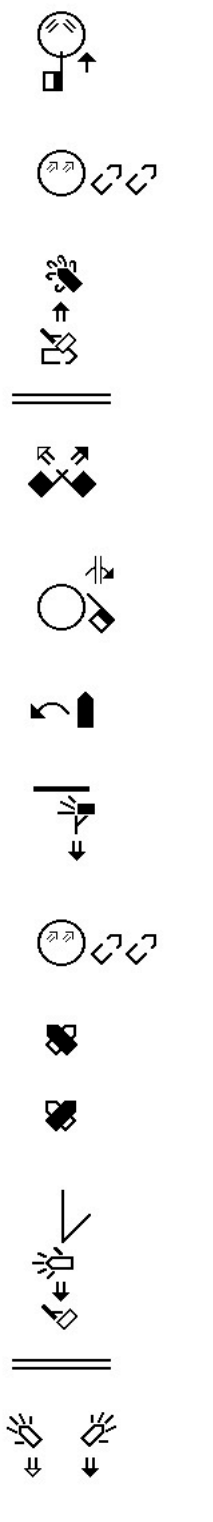
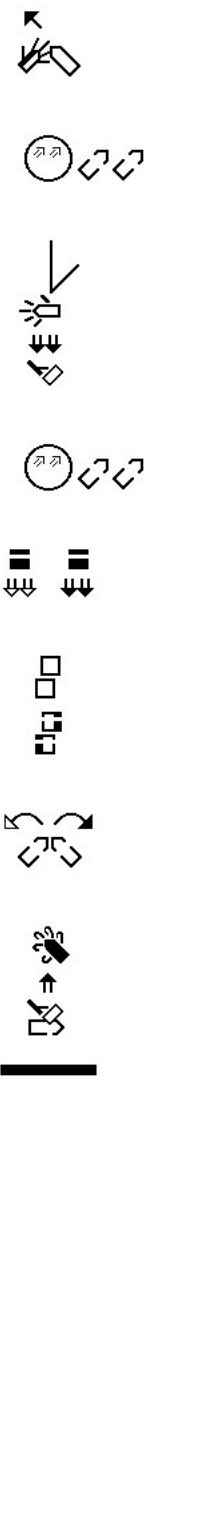
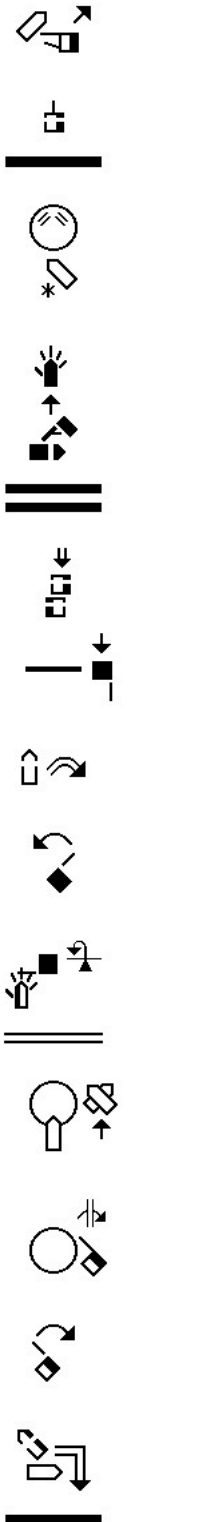
was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do. Verse 6. So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. Verse 7. Since you excel in so many ways -- in your faith, your gifted

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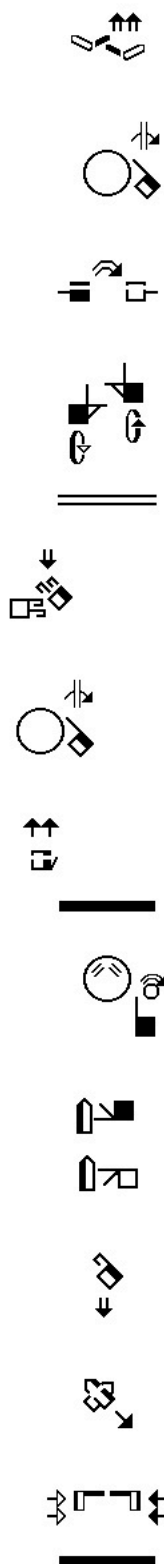
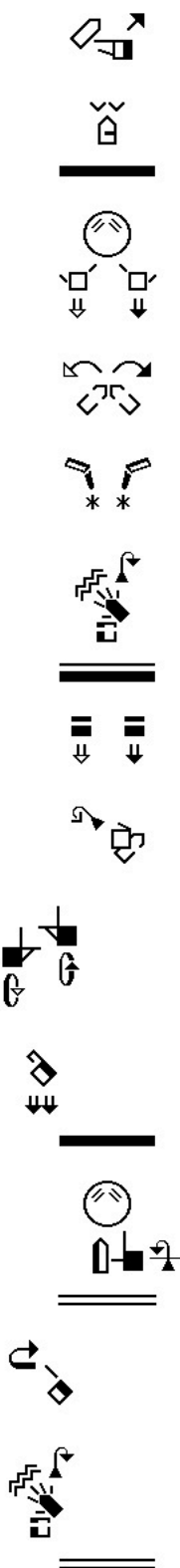
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speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us -- I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. Verse 8. I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches.

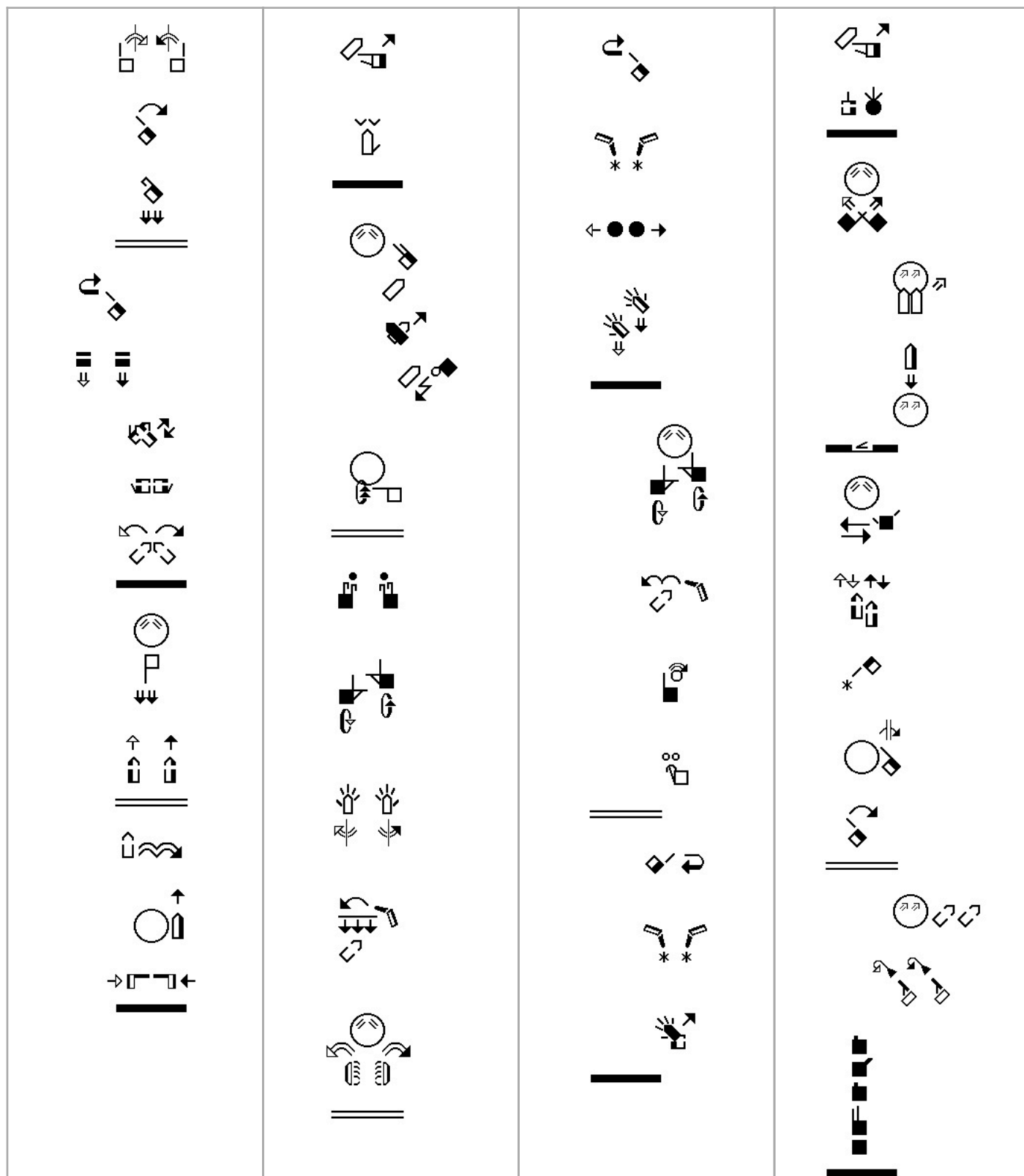
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


















			
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give according to what you have, not what you don't have. Verse 13. Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality. Verse 14. Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty



and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal. Verse 15. As the Scriptures say, "Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough." Verse 16. But thank God! He has given Titus the same enthusiasm for you that I have.

NLT




















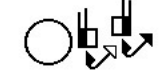







































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Verse 17. Titus welcomed our request that he visit you again. In fact, he himself was very eager to go and see you. Verse 18. We are also sending another brother with Titus. All the churches praise him as a preacher of the Good News.

NLT

Verse 19. He was appointed by the churches to accompany us as we take the offering to Jerusalem -- a service that glorifies the Lord and shows our eagerness to help. Verse 20. We are traveling together to guard against any criticism for the way we are handling this generous gift.

NLT

           	        	                  	                  
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Verse 21. We are careful to be honorable before the Lord, but we also want everyone else to see that we are honorable. Verse 22. We are also sending with them another of our brothers who has proven himself many times and has shown on many occasions how eager he is. He is now even more enthusiastic because of his great confidence in you.

NLT

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Verse 23. If anyone asks about Titus, say that he is my partner who works with me to help you. And the brothers with him have been sent by the churches, and they bring honor to Christ. Verse 24. So show them your love, and prove to all the churches that our boasting about you is justified.

NLT

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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

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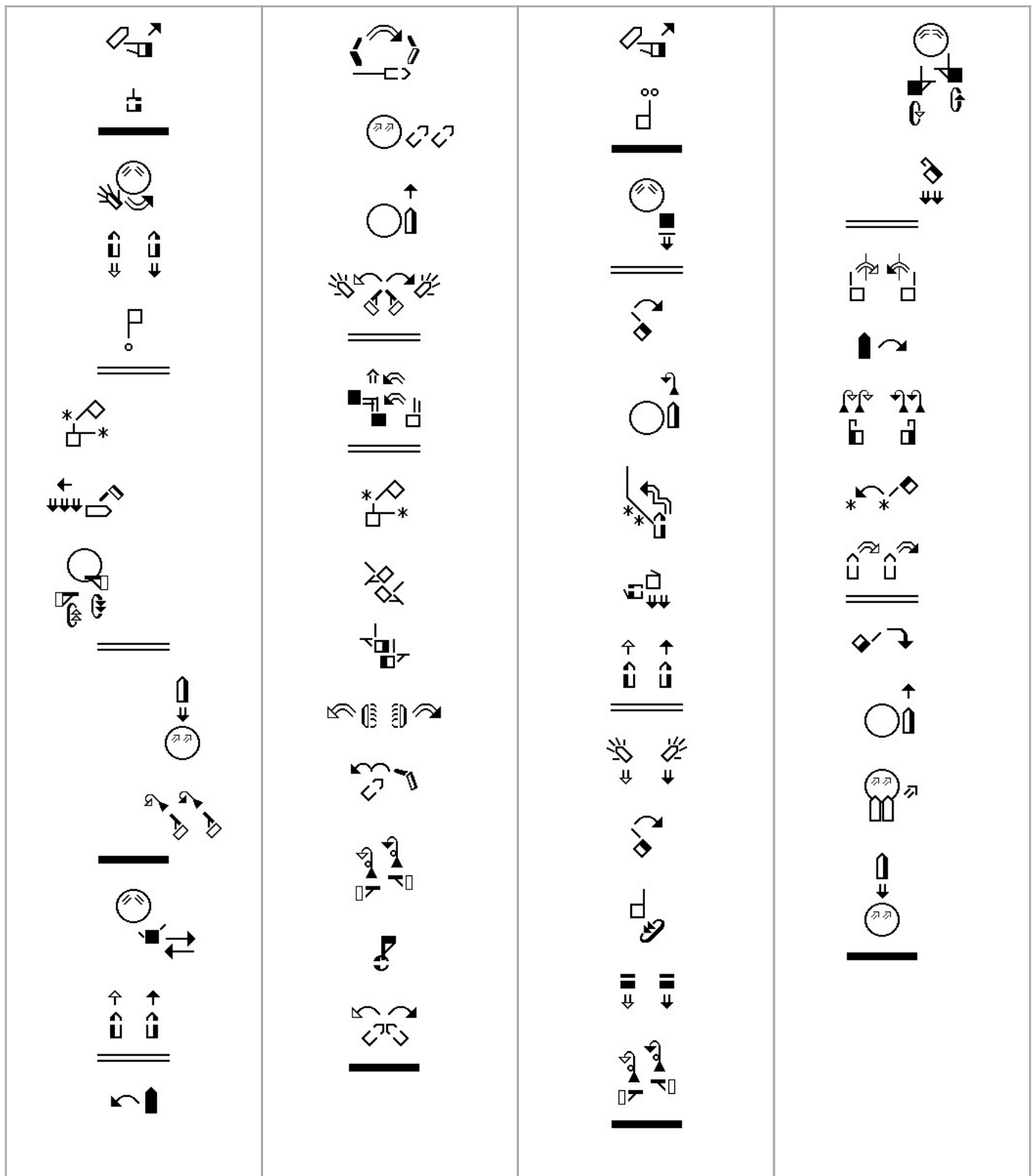
Verse 6. Remember this -- a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. Verse 7. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

NLT

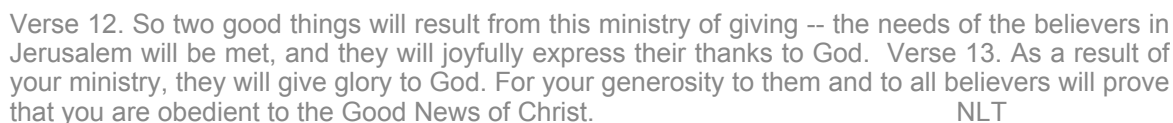
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Verse 8. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. Verse 9. As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will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

NLT



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



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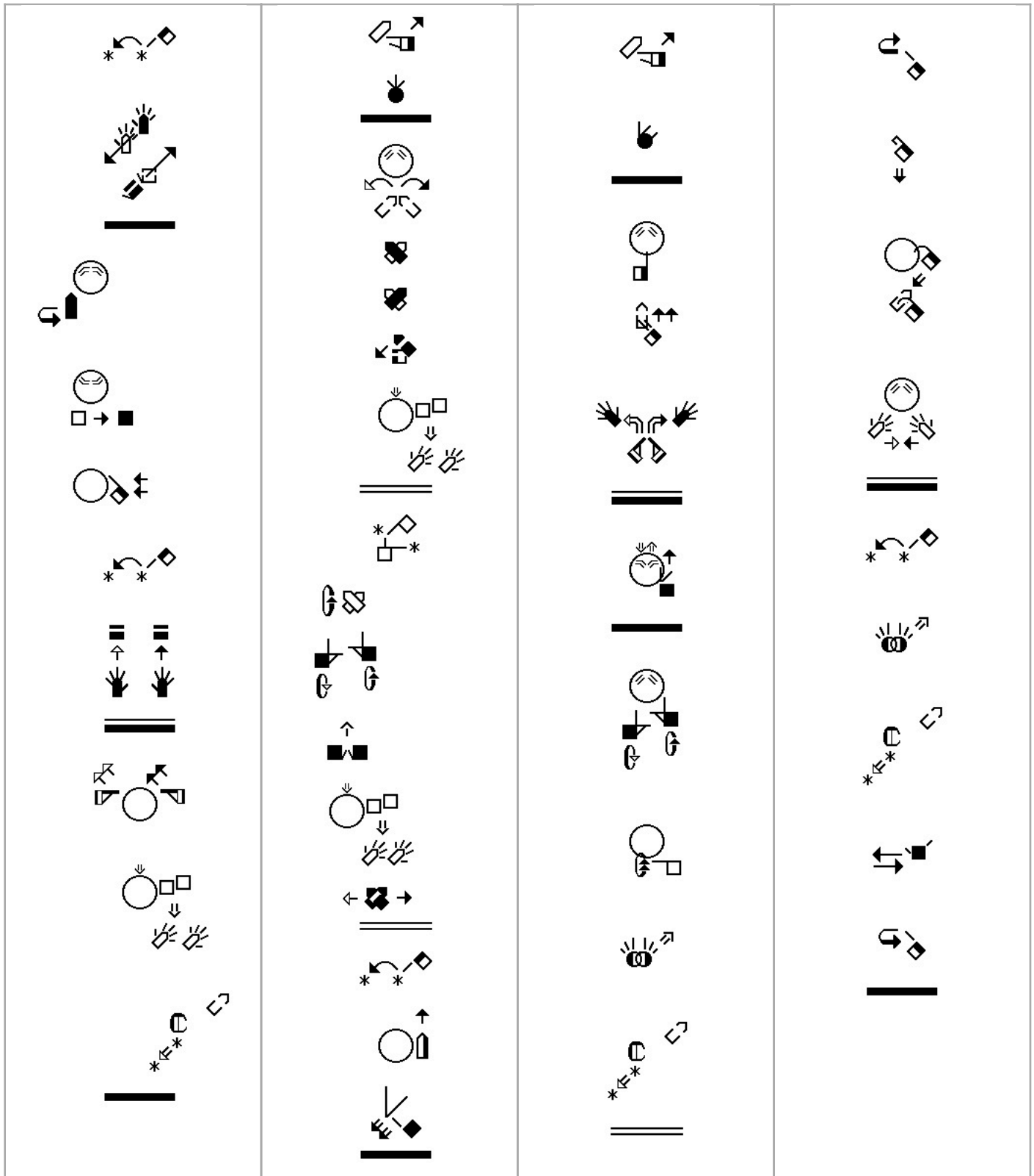
Chapter 10. Now I, Paul, appeal to you with the gentleness and kindness of Christ -- though I realize you think I am timid in person and bold only when I write from far away. Verse 2. Well, I am begging you now so that when I come I won't have to be bold with those who think we act from human motives.

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
































































Verse 3. We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. Verse 4. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. Verse 5. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God.

NLT




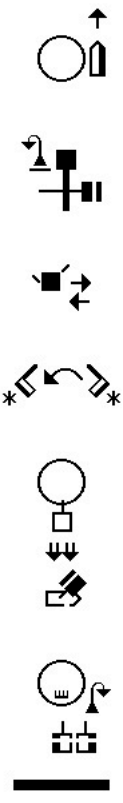


We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ. Verse 6. And after you have become fully obedient, we will punish everyone who remains disobedient. Verse 7. Look at the obvious facts. Those who say they belong to Christ must recognize that we belong to Christ as much as they do.

NLT















































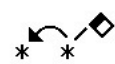








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Verse 8. I may seem to be boasting too much about the authority given to us by the Lord. But our authority builds you up; it doesn't tear you down. So I will not be ashamed of using my authority. Verse 9. I'm not trying to frighten you by my letters. NLT

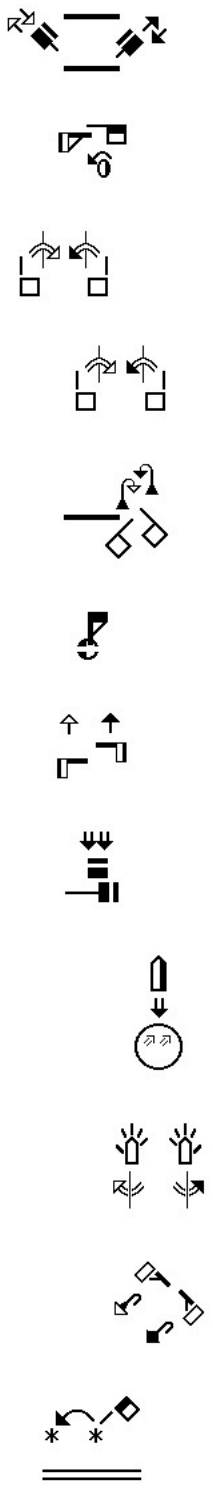
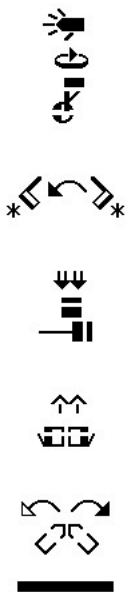
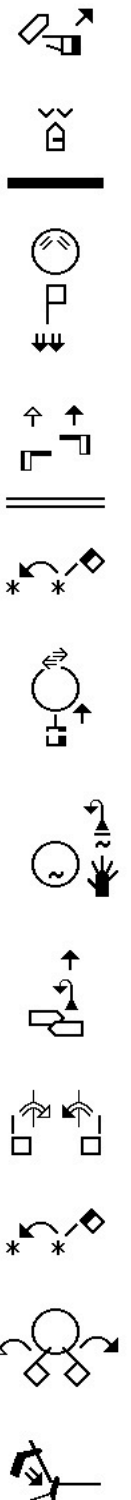

			
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Verse 10. For some say, "Paul's letters are demanding and forceful, but in person he is weak, and his speeches are worthless!" Verse 11. Those people should realize that our actions when we arrive in person will be as forceful as what we say in our letters from far away.

NLT

              	        	               	              
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Verse 12. Oh, don't worry; we wouldn't dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant! Verse 13. We will not boast about things done outside our area of authority. We





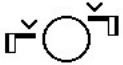















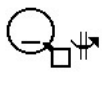







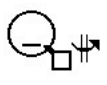

















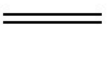


















			
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all the way to Corinth with the Good News of Christ. Verse 15. Nor do we boast and claim credit for the work someone else has done. Instead, we hope that your faith will grow so that the boundaries of our work among you will be extended. Verse 16. Then we will be able to go and preach the Good News in other places

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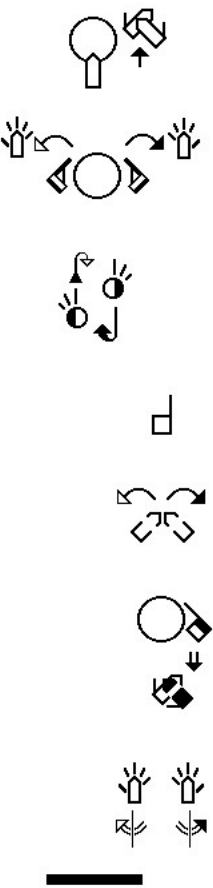
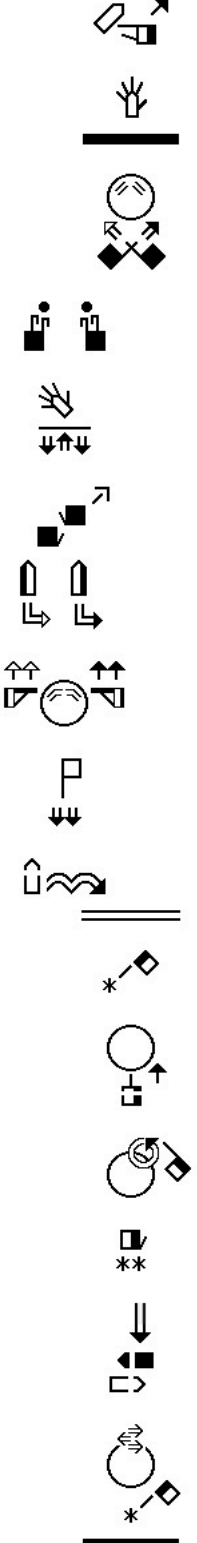
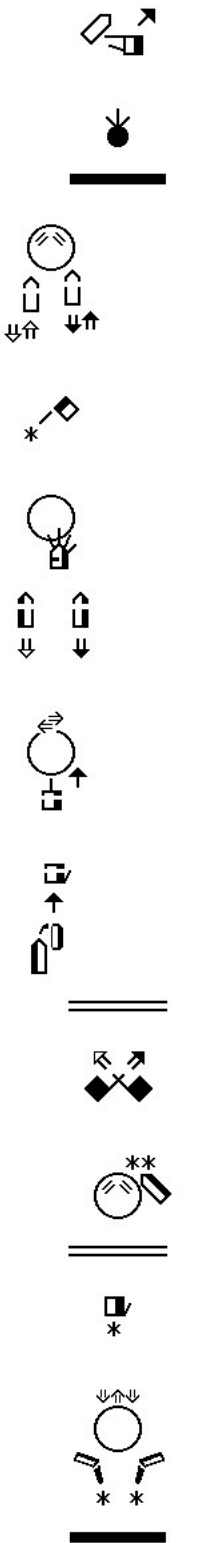
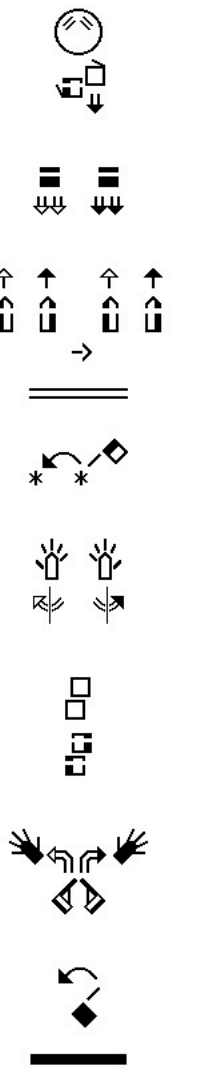
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








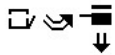














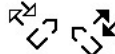











Chapter 11. I hope you will put up with a little more of my foolishness. Please bear with me. Verse 2. For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband -- Christ. Verse 3. But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be

NLT










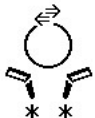


































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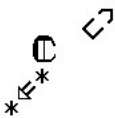





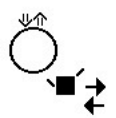









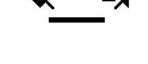










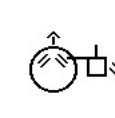





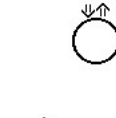
















			
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of gospel than the one you believed. Verse 5. But I don't consider myself inferior in any way to these "super apostles" who teach such things. Verse 6. I may be unskilled as a speaker, but I'm not lacking in knowledge. We have made this clear to you in every possible way.

  	              	  	              
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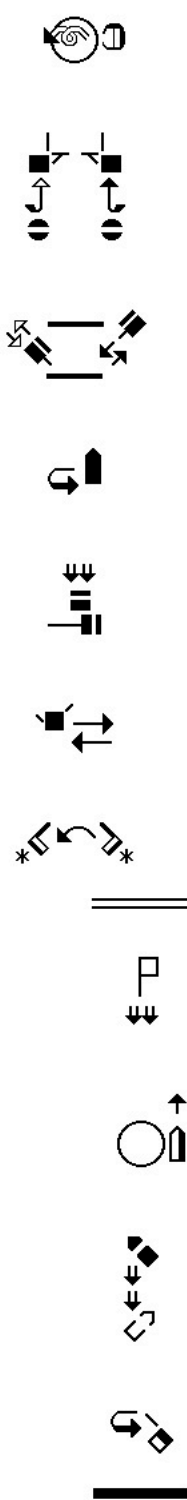
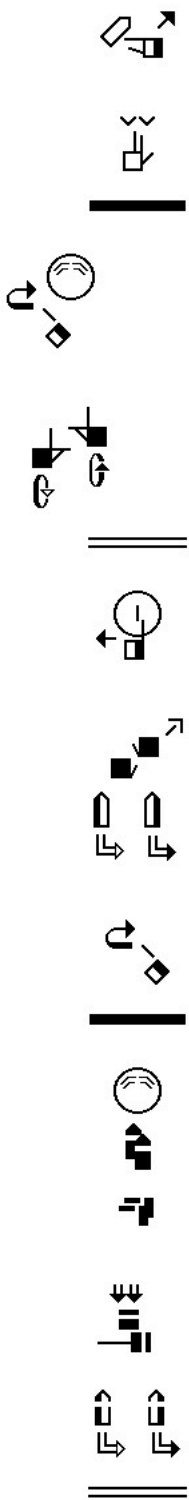
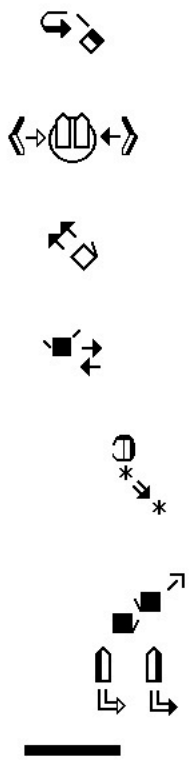
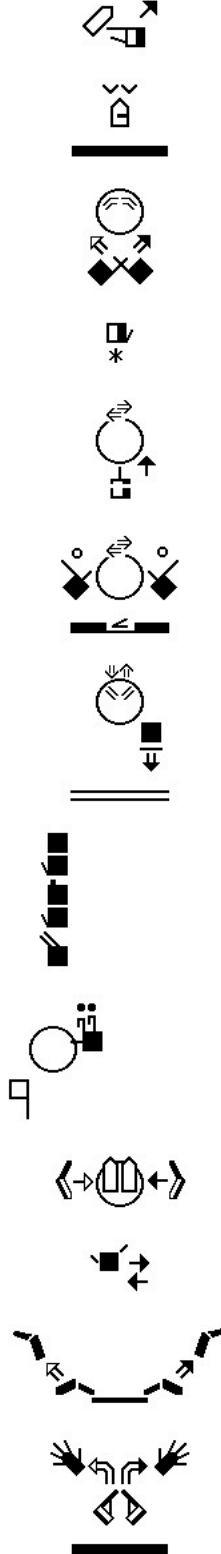
Verse 7. Was I wrong when I humbled myself and honored you by preaching God's Good News to you without expecting anything in return? Verse 8. I "robbed" other churches by accepting their contributions so I could serve you at no cost. NLT

             	          	          	       
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Verse 10. As surely as the truth of Christ is in me, no one in all of Greece will ever stop me from boasting about this. Verse 11. Why? Because I don't love you? God knows that I do. Verse 12. But I will continue doing what I have always done.

NLT

			
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This will undercut those who are looking for an opportunity to boast that their work is just like ours. Verse 13. These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. Verse 14. But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

NLT


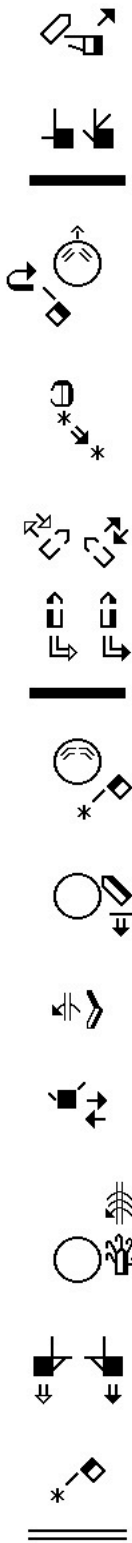
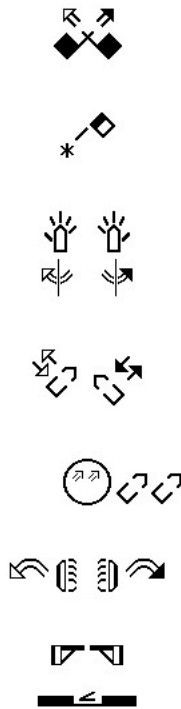

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Verse 17. Such boasting is not from the Lord, but I am acting like a fool. Verse 18. And since others boast about their human achievements, I will too. Verse 19. After all, you think you are so wise, but you enjoy putting up with fools! Verse 20. You put up with it when someone enslaves you, NLT

takes everything you have, takes advantage of you, takes control of everything, and slaps you in the face. Verse 21. I'm ashamed to say that we've been too "weak" to do that! But whatever they dare to boast about -- I'm talking like a fool again -- I dare to boast about it, too. Verse 22. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I.

NLT

			
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Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Verse 23. Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again.

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Verse 24. Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. Verse 25. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. Verse 26. I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. NLT

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have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. Verse 28. Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches. Verse 29. Who is weak without my feeling that weakness? Who is led astray, and I do not burn with anger? NLT

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Verse 30. If I must boast, I would rather boast about the things that show how weak I am.
 Verse 31. God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, who is worthy of eternal praise, knows I am
 not lying. Verse 32. When I was in Damascus, the governor under King Aretas NLT

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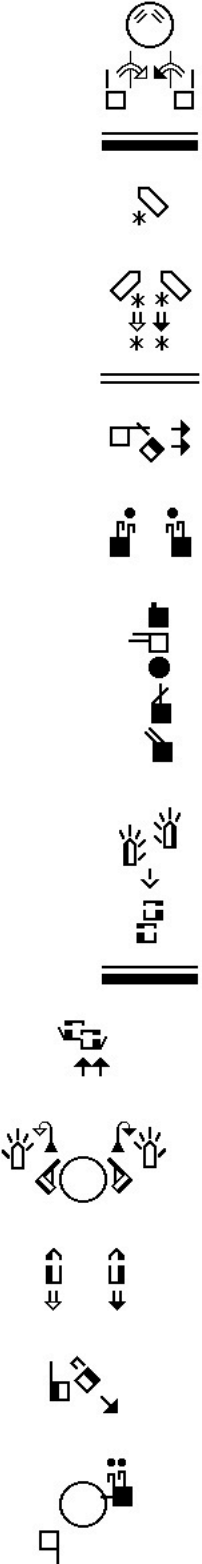
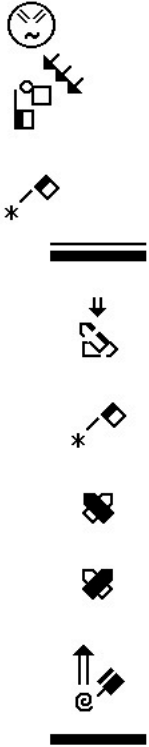
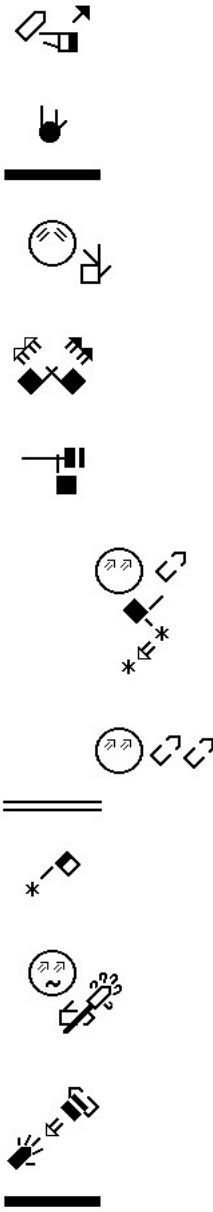
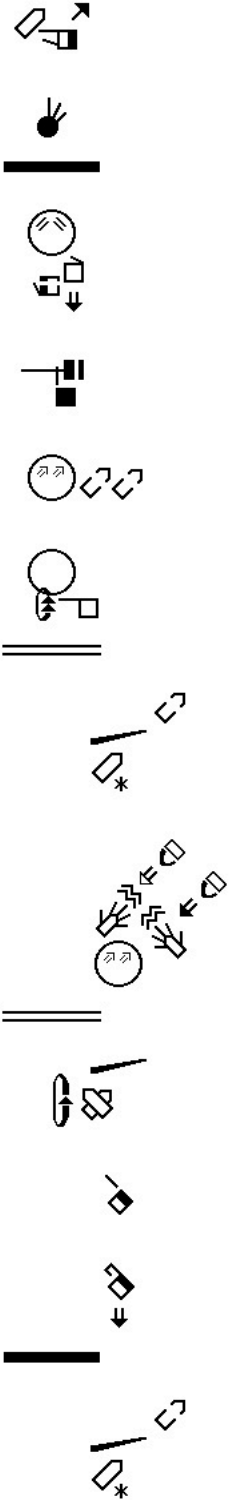
Chapter 12. This boasting will do no good, but I must go on. I will reluctantly tell about visions and revelations from the Lord. Verse 2. I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don't know -- only God knows.

NLT

NLT

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Verse 6. If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won't do it, because I don't want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message, Verse 7. even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, NLT

			
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I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. Verse 8. Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Verse 9. Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My

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power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. Verse 10. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

NLT

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For I patiently did many signs and wonders and miracles among you. Verse 13. The only thing I failed to do, which I do in the other churches, was to become a financial burden to you. Please forgive me for this wrong! Verse 14. Now I am coming to you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you.

NLT

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I don't want what you have -- I want you. After all, children don't provide for their parents. Rather, parents provide for their children. Verse 15. I will gladly spend myself and all I have for you, even though it seems that the more I love you, the less you love me.

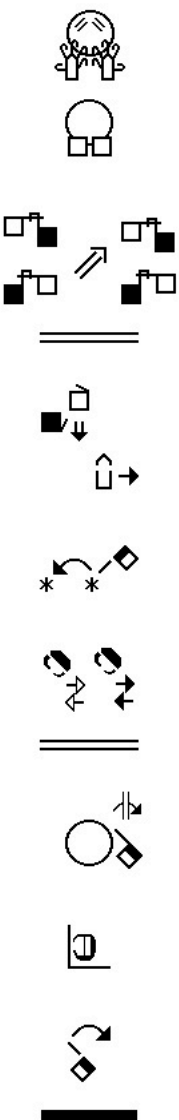
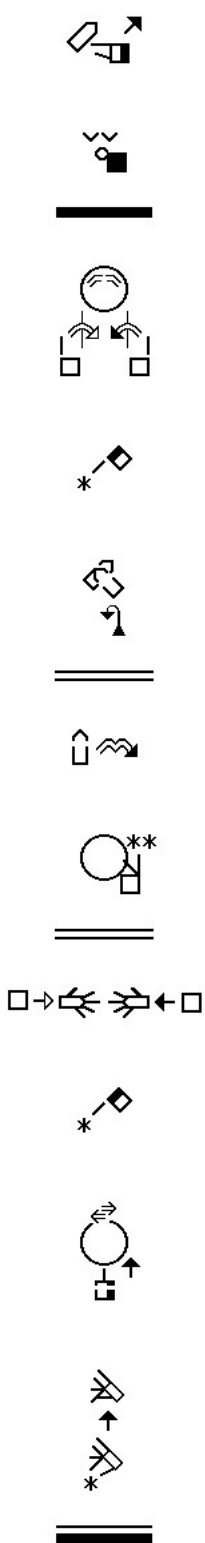
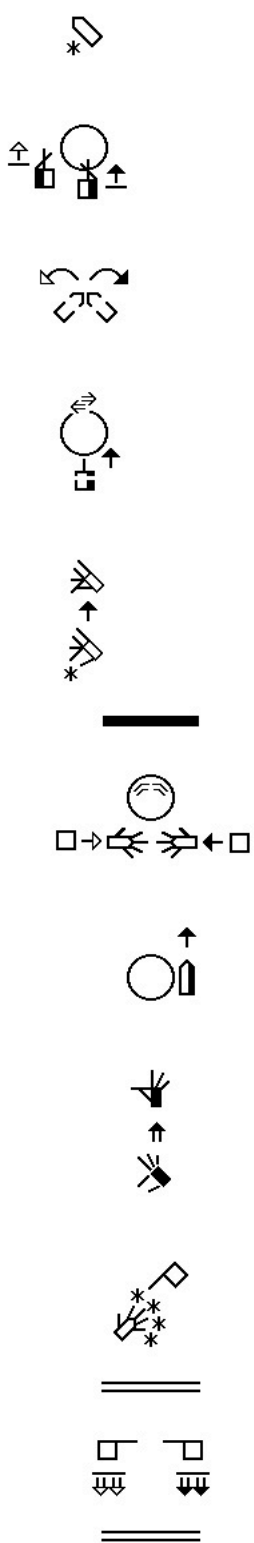
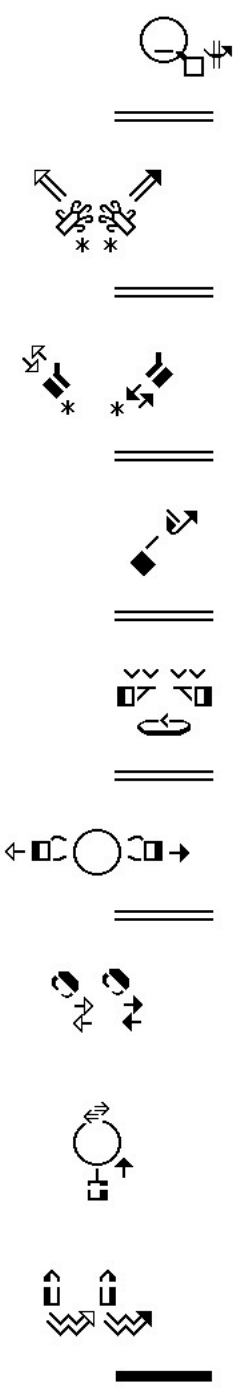
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Verse 16. Some of you admit I was not a burden to you. But others still think I was sneaky and took advantage of you by trickery. Verse 17. But how? Did any of the men I sent to you take advantage of you? Verse 18. When I urged Titus to visit you and NLT

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





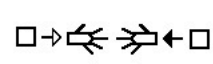








































































sent our other brother with him, did Titus take advantage of you? No! For we have the same spirit and walk in each other's steps, doing things the same way. Verse 19. Perhaps you think we're saying these things just to defend ourselves. No, we tell you this as Christ's servants, and with God as our witness.

NLT

			
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Everything we do, dear friends, is to strengthen you. Verse 20. For I am afraid that when I come I won't like what I find, and you won't like my response. I am afraid that I will find quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorderly behavior.

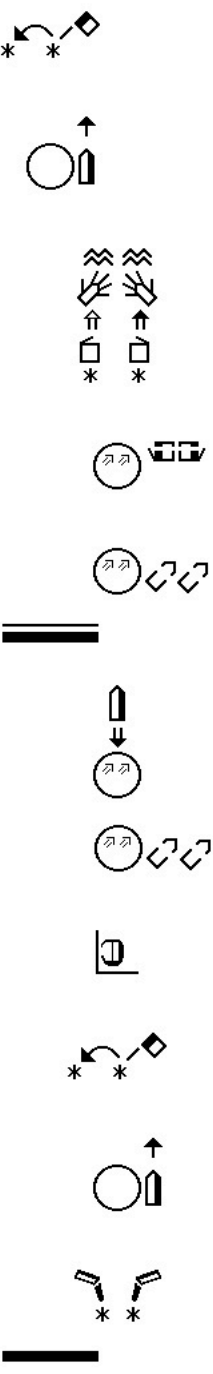
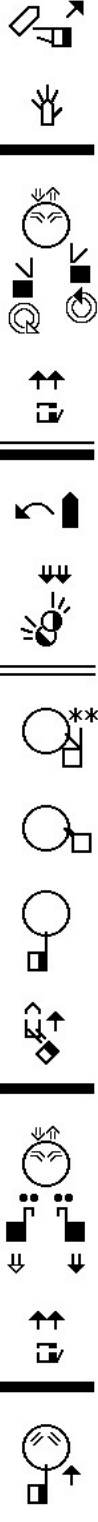
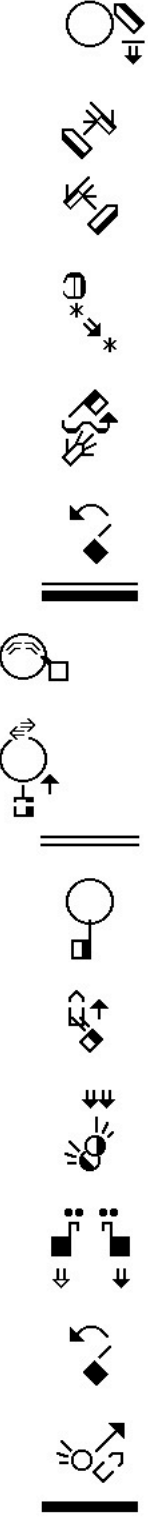
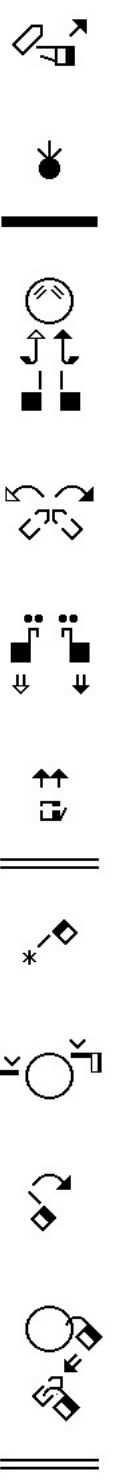
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Verse 21. Yes, I am afraid that when I come again, God will humble me in your presence. And I will be grieved because many of you have not given up your old sins. You have not repented of your impurity, sexual immorality, and eagerness for lustful pleasure. NLT






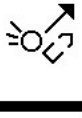


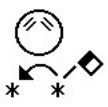

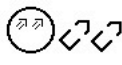


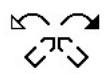







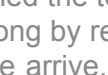
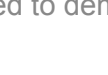



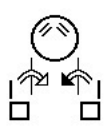




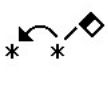
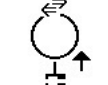






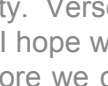



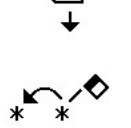

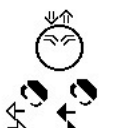
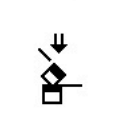

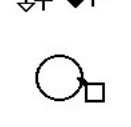
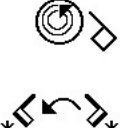


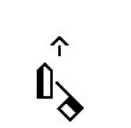
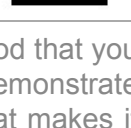

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we will be alive with him and will have God's power. Verse 5. Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith. Verse 6. As you test yourselves, I hope you will recognize

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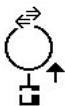





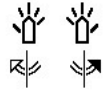
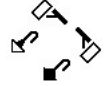







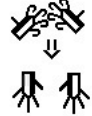


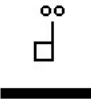


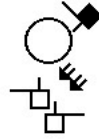
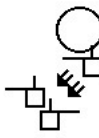

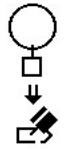





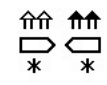


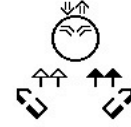

     	                 	                 	            
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that we have not failed the test of apostolic authority. Verse 7. We pray to God that you will not do what is wrong by refusing our correction. I hope we won't need to demonstrate our authority when we arrive. Do the right thing before we come -- even if that makes it look like we have failed to demonstrate our authority.

NLT

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Verse 8. For we cannot oppose the truth, but must always stand for the truth. Verse 9. We are glad to seem weak if it helps show that you are actually strong. We pray that you will become mature. Verse 10. I am writing this to you before I come, hoping that

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I won't need to deal severely with you when I do come. For I want to use the authority the Lord has given me to strengthen you, not to tear you down. Verse 11. Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. NLT

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Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you. Verse 12.
 Greet each other with Christian love. Verse 13. All of God's people here send you their
 greetings. Verse 14. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, NLT

