

Holy Bible New Testament



1, 2 Corinthians

Written in American Sign Language

Interpreter/Translator Nancy Fray Romero

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Art?

1, 2 Corinthians

in Written American Sign Language

Romero Translation

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ISBN:

American Sign Language Translator: Nancy Fray Romero

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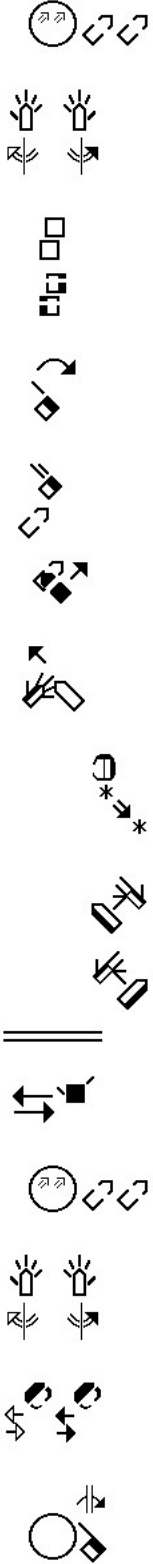
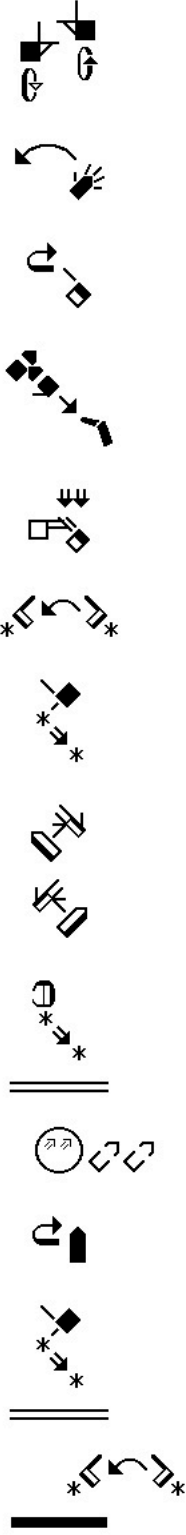
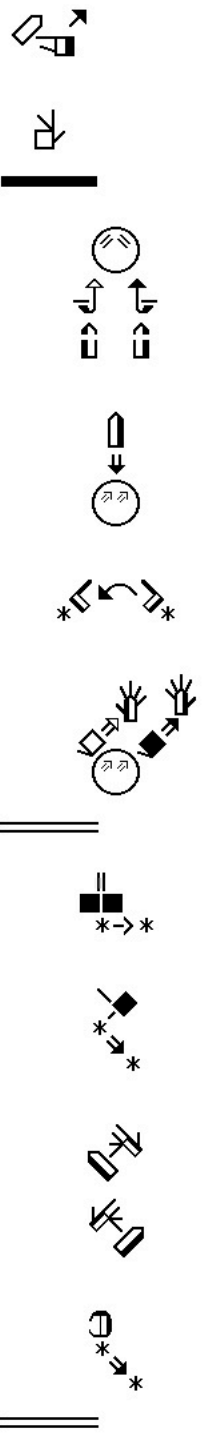
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



























































to you who have been called by God to be his own holy people. He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus, just as he did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. Verse 3. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ NLT

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3 give you grace and peace. Verse 4. I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. Verse 5. Through him, God has enriched your church in every way -- NLT

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with all of your eloquent words and all of your knowledge. Verse 6. This confirms that what I told you about Christ is true. Verse 7. Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

              	              	              	              
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Verse 8. He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. Verse 9. God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
NLT

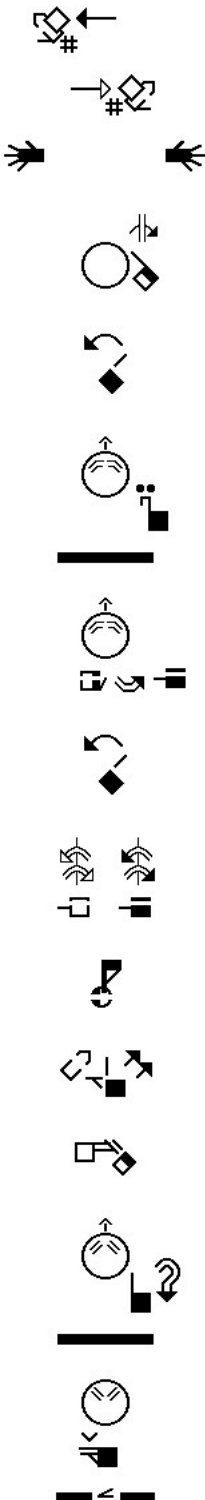

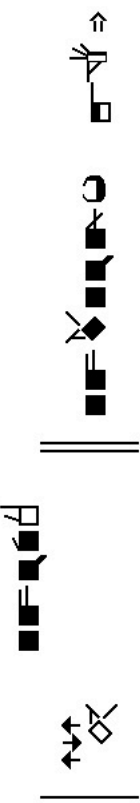
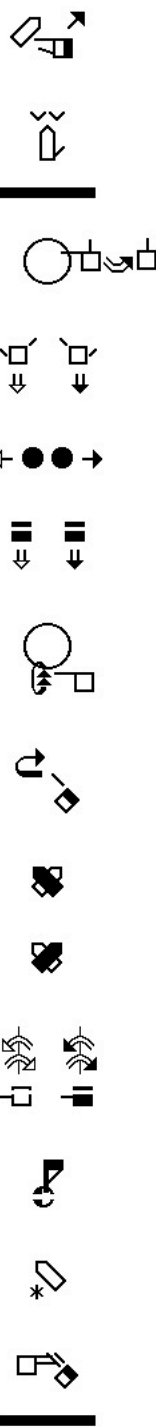
<p>ASL sign sequence for Verse 10, Part 1: Authority of Jesus Christ. The sequence includes signs for 'Jesus' (a stick figure with a cross), 'Christ' (a cross with a dot), 'Lord' (a circle with a dot), 'appeal' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'you' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'brothers and sisters' (two hands with pointing fingers), 'by the authority of' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'our Lord Jesus Christ' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'to live in harmony with each other' (two hands with pointing fingers), 'Let there be no divisions in the church' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose' (a hand with a pointing finger).</p>	<p>ASL sign sequence for Verse 10, Part 2: Unity of the church. The sequence includes signs for 'unity' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'divisions' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'church' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'one mind' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'united in thought and purpose' (a hand with a pointing finger).</p>	<p>ASL sign sequence for Verse 11, Part 1: Household of Chloe. The sequence includes signs for 'household' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'Chloe' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'some members' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'of' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'household' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'Chloe' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'unity' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'divisions' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'church' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'one mind' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'united in thought and purpose' (a hand with a pointing finger).</p>	<p>ASL sign sequence for Verse 11, Part 2: Unity of the church. The sequence includes signs for 'unity' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'divisions' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'church' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'one mind' (a hand with a pointing finger), 'united in thought and purpose' (a hand with a pointing finger).</p>
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Verse 10. I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. Verse 11. For some members of Chloe's household

NLT

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7 have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. Verse 12. Some of you are saying, "I am a follower of Paul." Others are saying, "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Peter," or "I follow only Christ." Verse 13. Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, NLT

 <p>ASL sign sequence for 1 Corinthians 1:13-15. The sequence includes signs for 'I', 'baptized', 'in the name of', 'Paul', 'of course not!', 'I thank God', 'that I did not baptize', 'any of you except Crispus and Gaius', 'now no one can say', 'they were baptized in my name'.</p>	 <p>ASL sign sequence for 1 Corinthians 1:16-17. The sequence includes signs for 'I', 'baptized', 'in the name of', 'Paul', 'of course not!', 'I thank God', 'that I did not baptize', 'any of you except Crispus and Gaius', 'now no one can say', 'they were baptized in my name'.</p>	 <p>ASL sign sequence for 1 Corinthians 1:18-19. The sequence includes signs for 'I', 'baptized', 'in the name of', 'Paul', 'of course not!', 'I thank God', 'that I did not baptize', 'any of you except Crispus and Gaius', 'now no one can say', 'they were baptized in my name'.</p>	 <p>ASL sign sequence for 1 Corinthians 1:20-22. The sequence includes signs for 'I', 'baptized', 'in the name of', 'Paul', 'of course not!', 'I thank God', 'that I did not baptize', 'any of you except Crispus and Gaius', 'now no one can say', 'they were baptized in my name'.</p>
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crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not! Verse 14. I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, Verse 15. for now no one can say they were baptized in my name.

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



























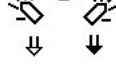








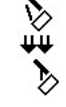














Verse 16. (Oh yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas, but I don't remember baptizing anyone else.) Verse 17. For Christ didn't send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News -- and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.

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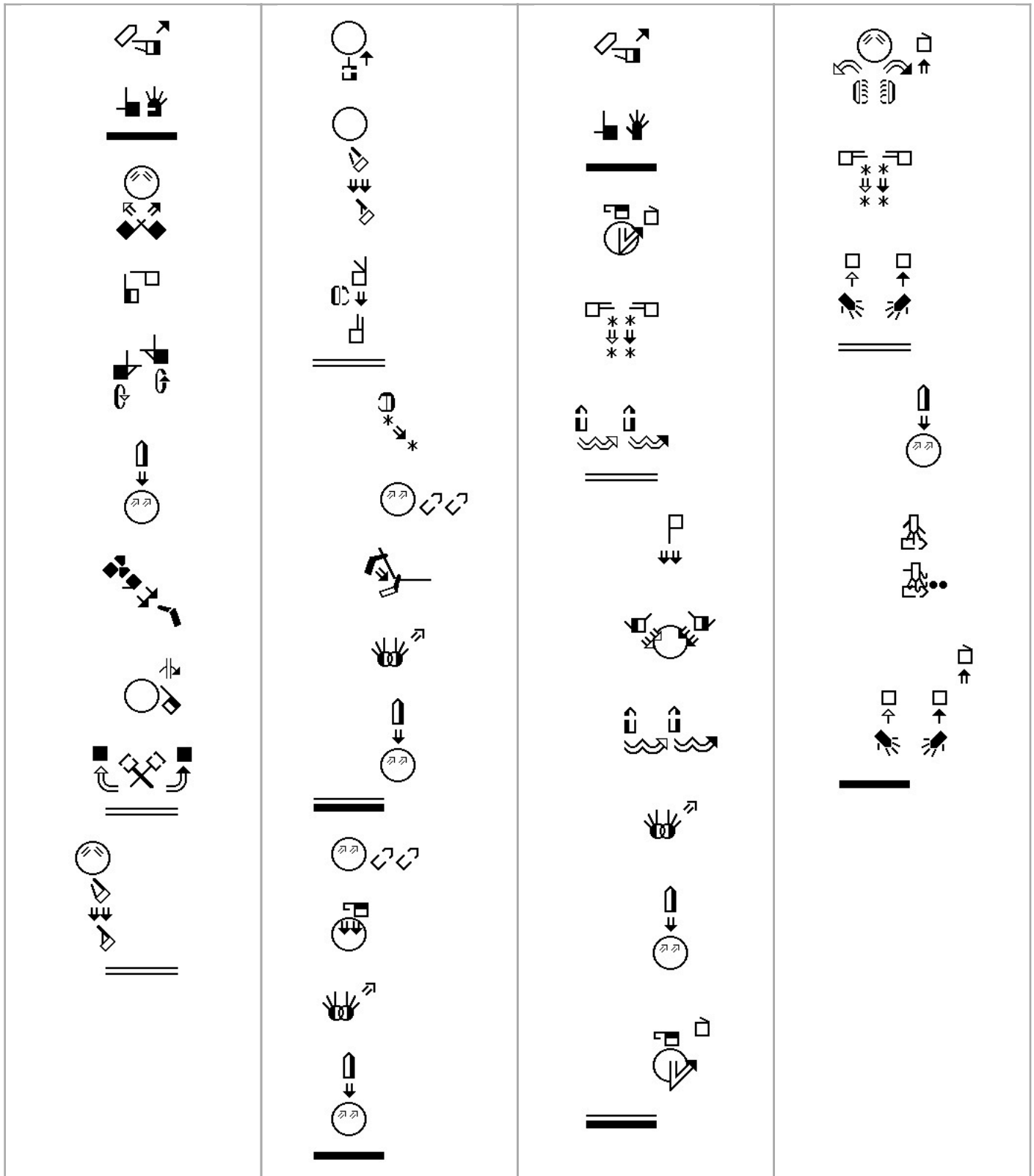
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Verse 18. The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. Verse 19. As the Scriptures say, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent."

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




















            	            	             	            
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Verse 22. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. Verse 23. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense. NLT



Verse 24. But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of Good and the wisdom of God. Verse 25. This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

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

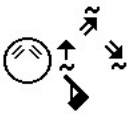





















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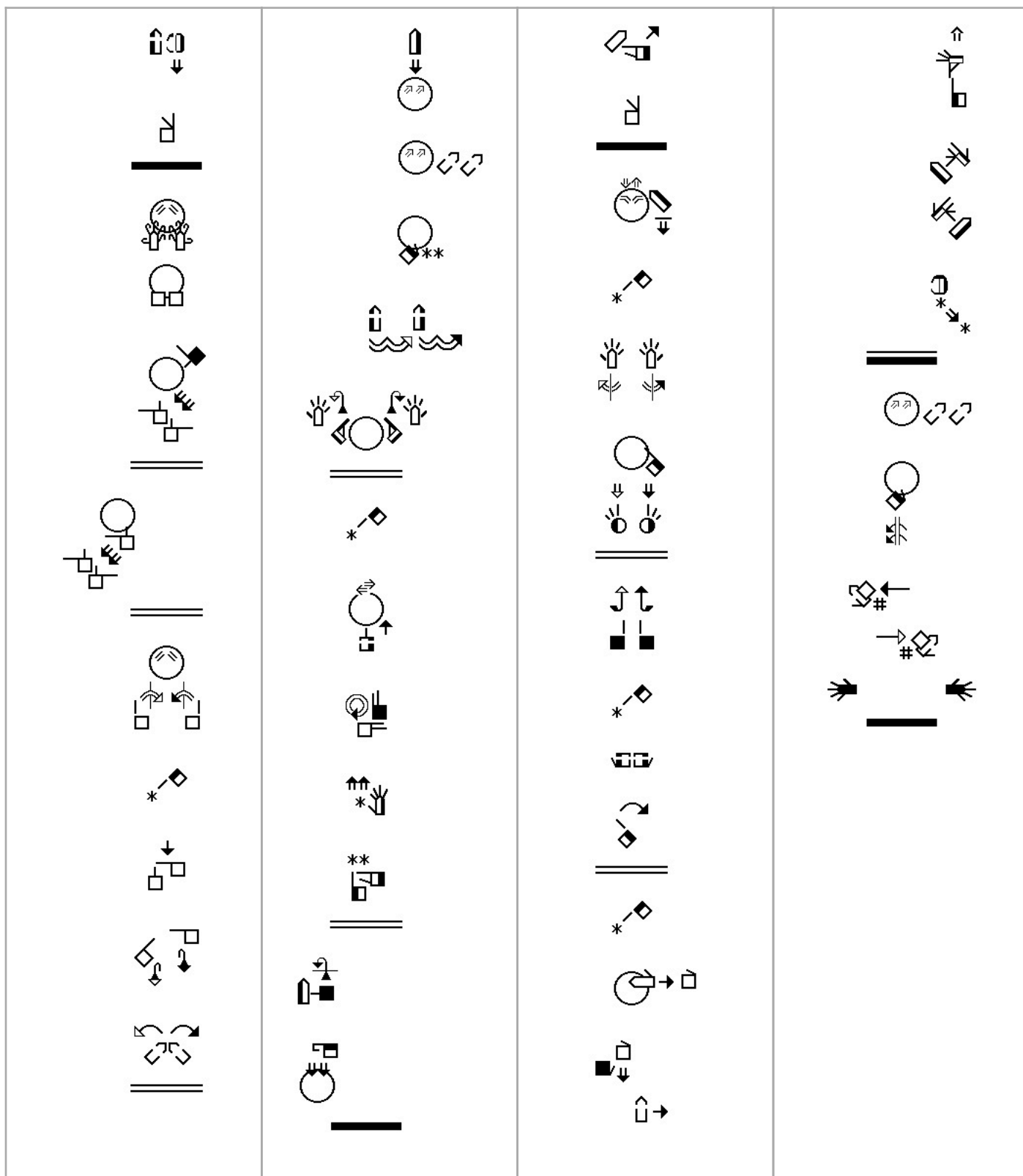
And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. Verse 28. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. Verse 29. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. NLT

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Verse 30. God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.

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

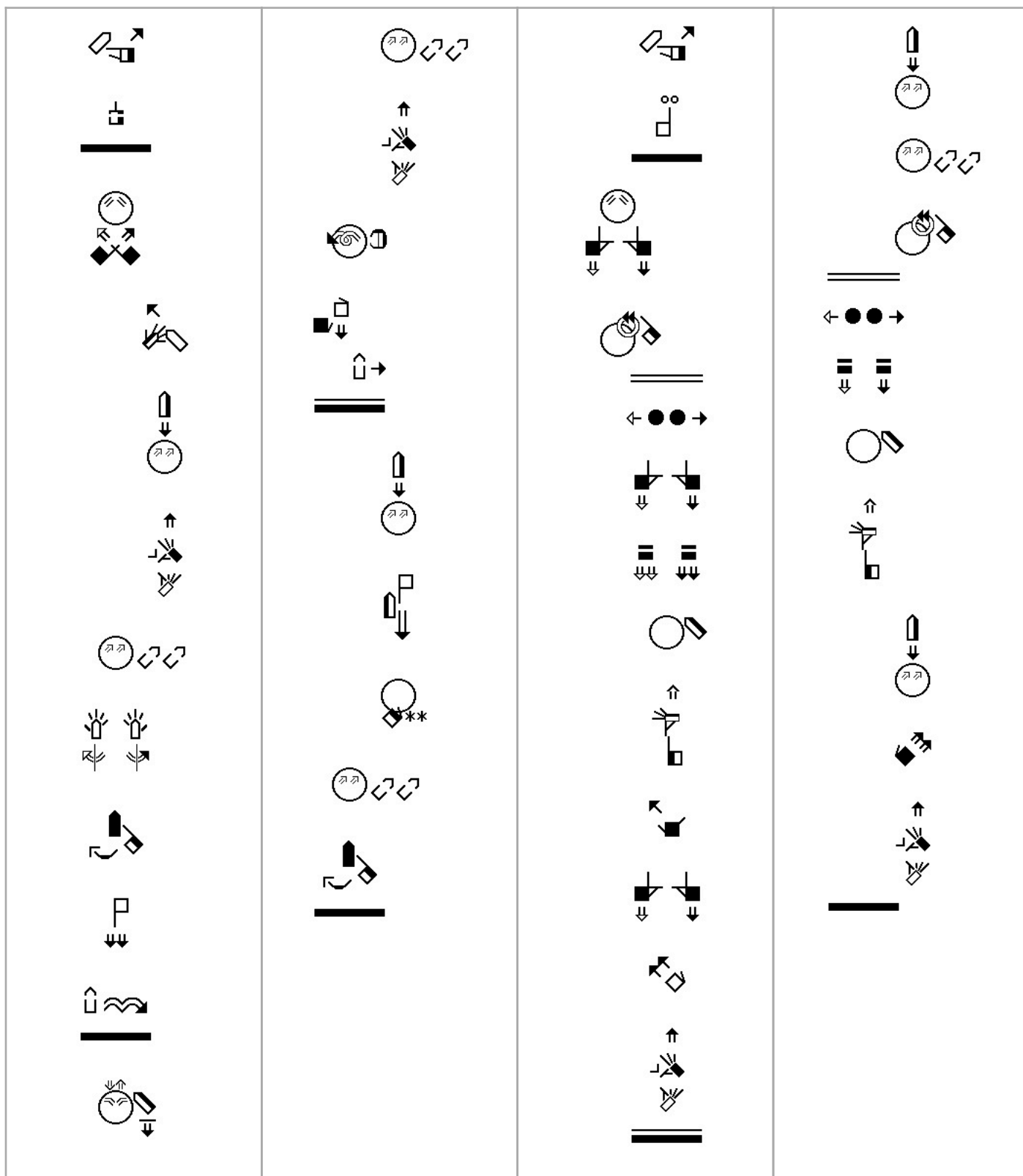
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Verse 3. I came to you in weakness -- timid and trembling. Verse 4. And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. Verse 5. I did this so you would trust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

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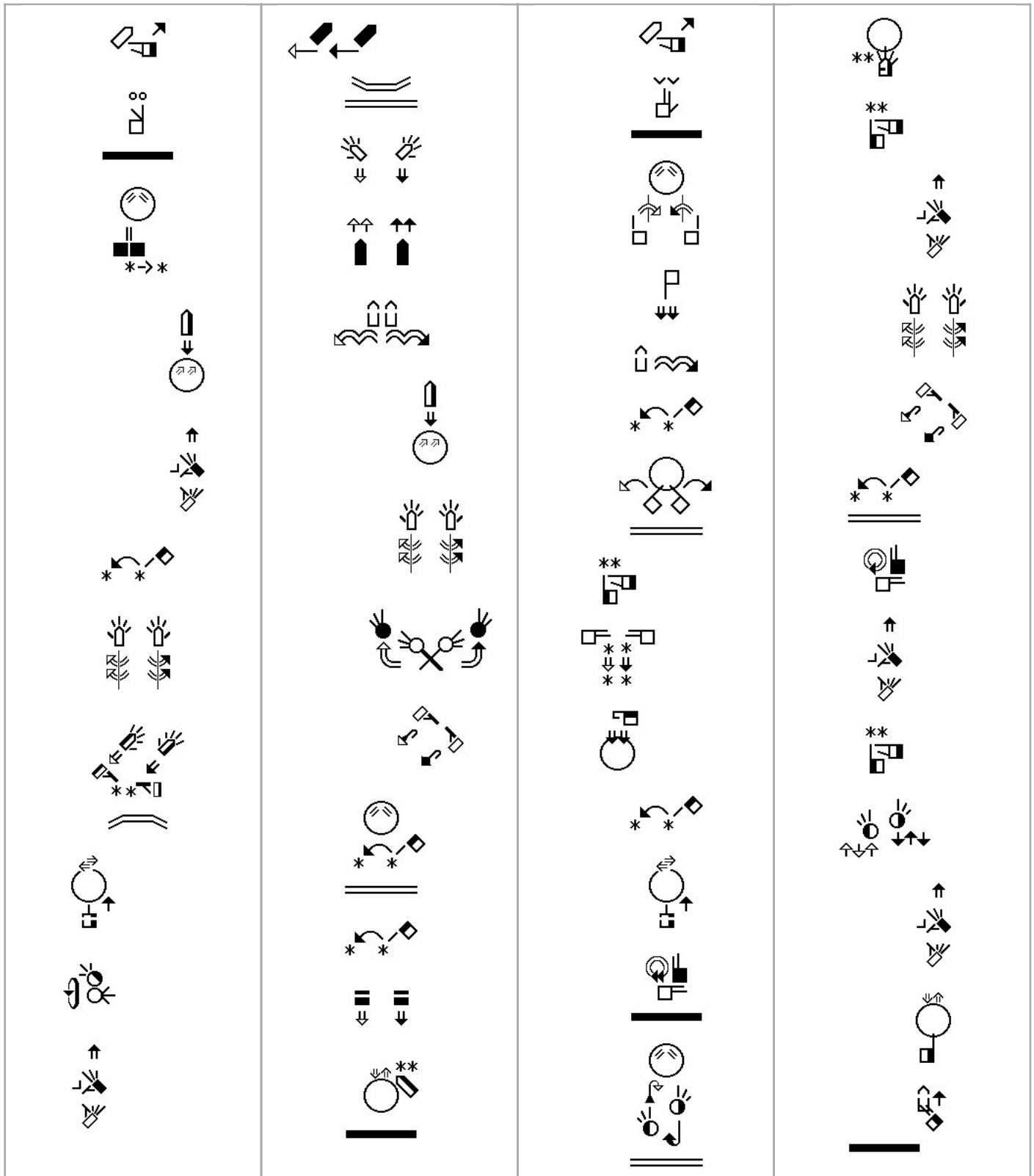
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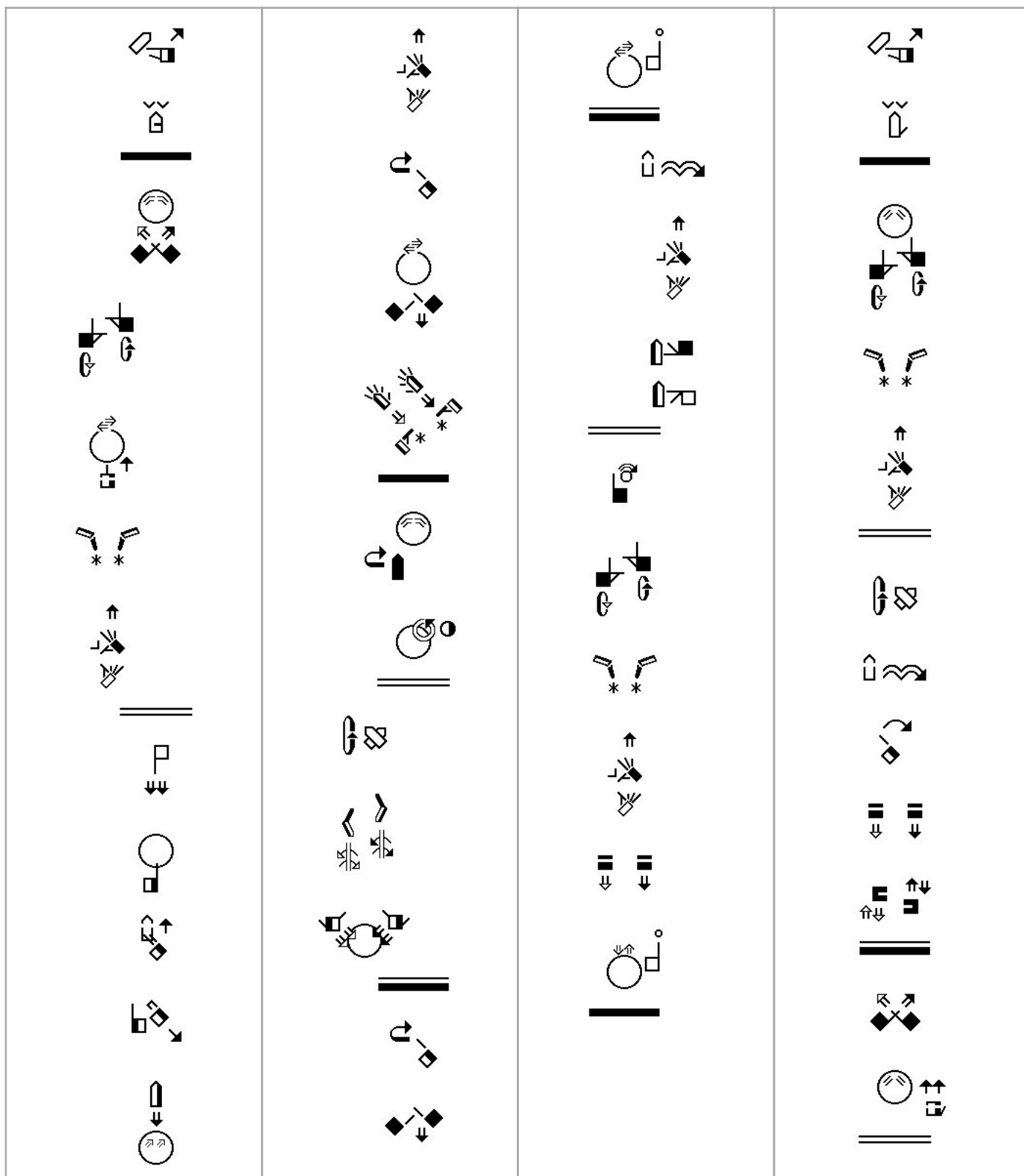


Verse 10. But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. Verse 11. No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit.

NLT



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



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

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

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Chapter 3. Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in the Christian life. Verse 2. I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, NLT

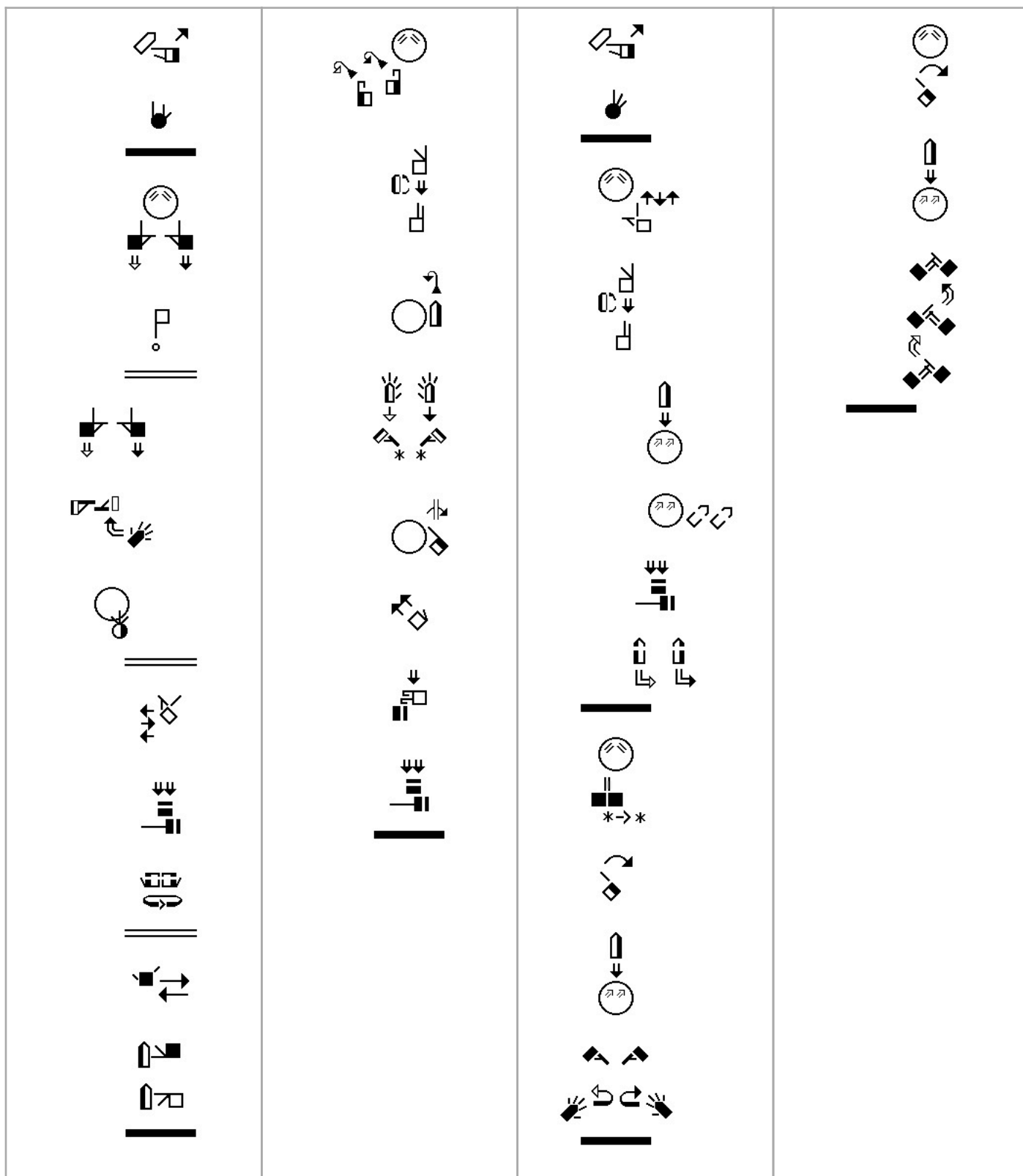
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27 because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, Verse 3. for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world? Verse 4. When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, NLT

<p>A sequence of ASL signs starting with a hand sign for 'I' (index finger up, palm facing left), followed by a hand sign for 'follow' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward), then a hand sign for 'Apollos' (a stylized 'A' with a dot above it, palm facing left), and ending with a hand sign for 'person' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward).</p>	<p>A sequence of ASL signs starting with a hand sign for 'aren't you' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward), followed by a hand sign for 'acting' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward), then a hand sign for 'just' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward), and ending with a hand sign for 'people of the world' (a hand sign for 'people' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'world' (a hand sign for 'world' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward)).</p>	<p>A sequence of ASL signs starting with a hand sign for 'Verse 5' (a hand sign for 'verse' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for '5' (a hand sign for '5' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward)), followed by a hand sign for 'After all' (a hand sign for 'after' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'all' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward)), then a hand sign for 'who is Apollos?' (a hand sign for 'who' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'is' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'Apollos' (a stylized 'A' with a dot above it, palm facing left)), then a hand sign for 'who is Paul?' (a hand sign for 'who' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'is' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'Paul' (a hand sign for 'Paul' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward))), then a hand sign for 'We are only' (a hand sign for 'we' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'are' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'only' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward)), then a hand sign for 'God's servants' (a hand sign for 'God' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'servants' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward)), then a hand sign for 'through whom' (a hand sign for 'through' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'whom' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward)), then a hand sign for 'you believed' (a hand sign for 'you' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'believed' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward)), then a hand sign for 'the Good News' (a hand sign for 'the' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'Good News' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward)), and ending with a hand sign for 'Each of us' (a hand sign for 'each' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'of us' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward)).</p>	<p>A sequence of ASL signs starting with a hand sign for 'Each of us' (a hand sign for 'each' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'of us' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward)), followed by a hand sign for 'did the work' (a hand sign for 'did' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'the work' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward)), then a hand sign for 'the Lord' (a hand sign for 'the' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'Lord' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward)), then a hand sign for 'gave us' (a hand sign for 'gave' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward) followed by a hand sign for 'us' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward)), and ending with a hand sign for 'us' (open palm, fingers spread, moving forward).</p>
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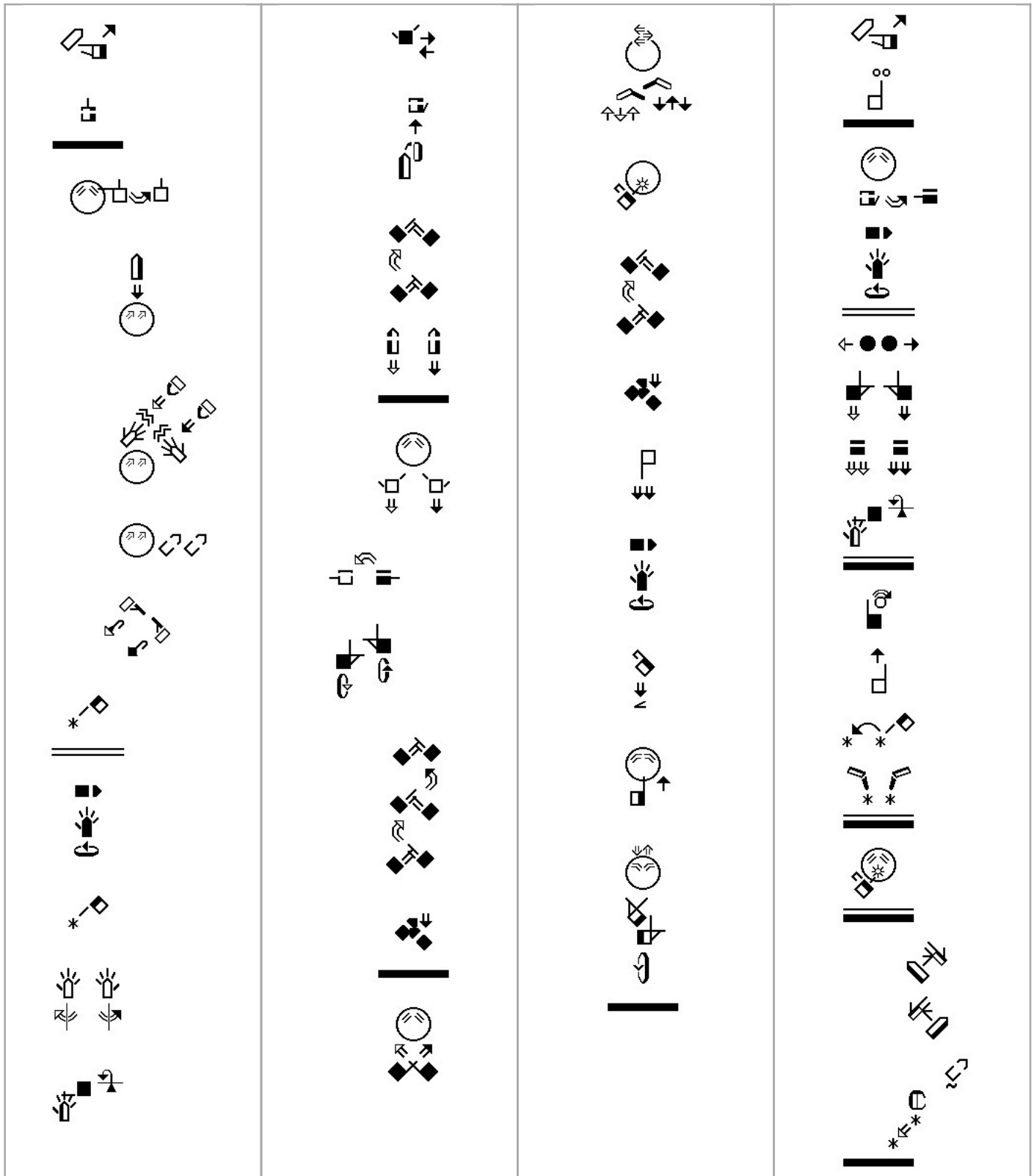
"I follow Apollos," aren't you acting just like people of the world? Verse 5. After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us.

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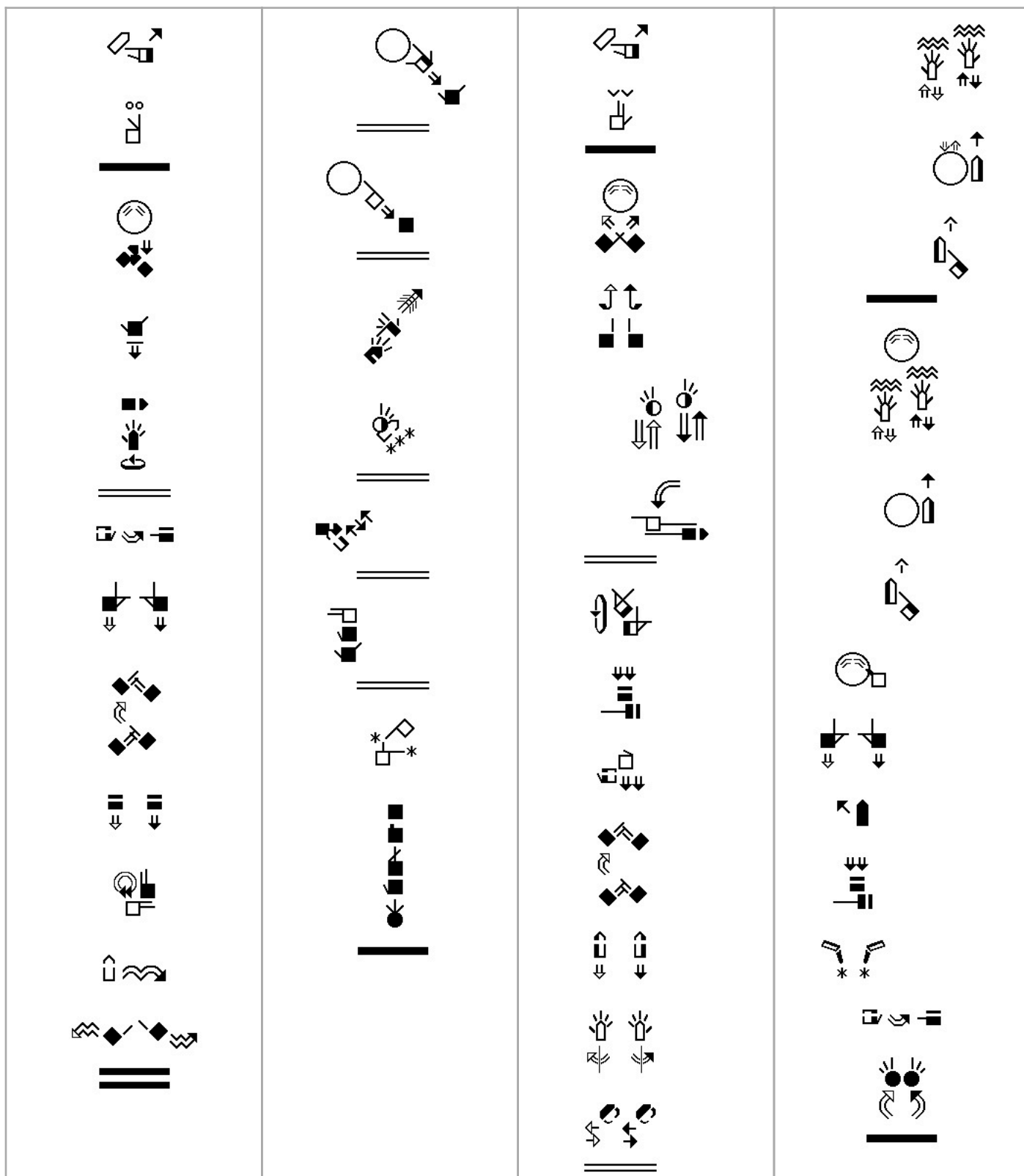
Verse 8. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. Verse 9. For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.

NLT



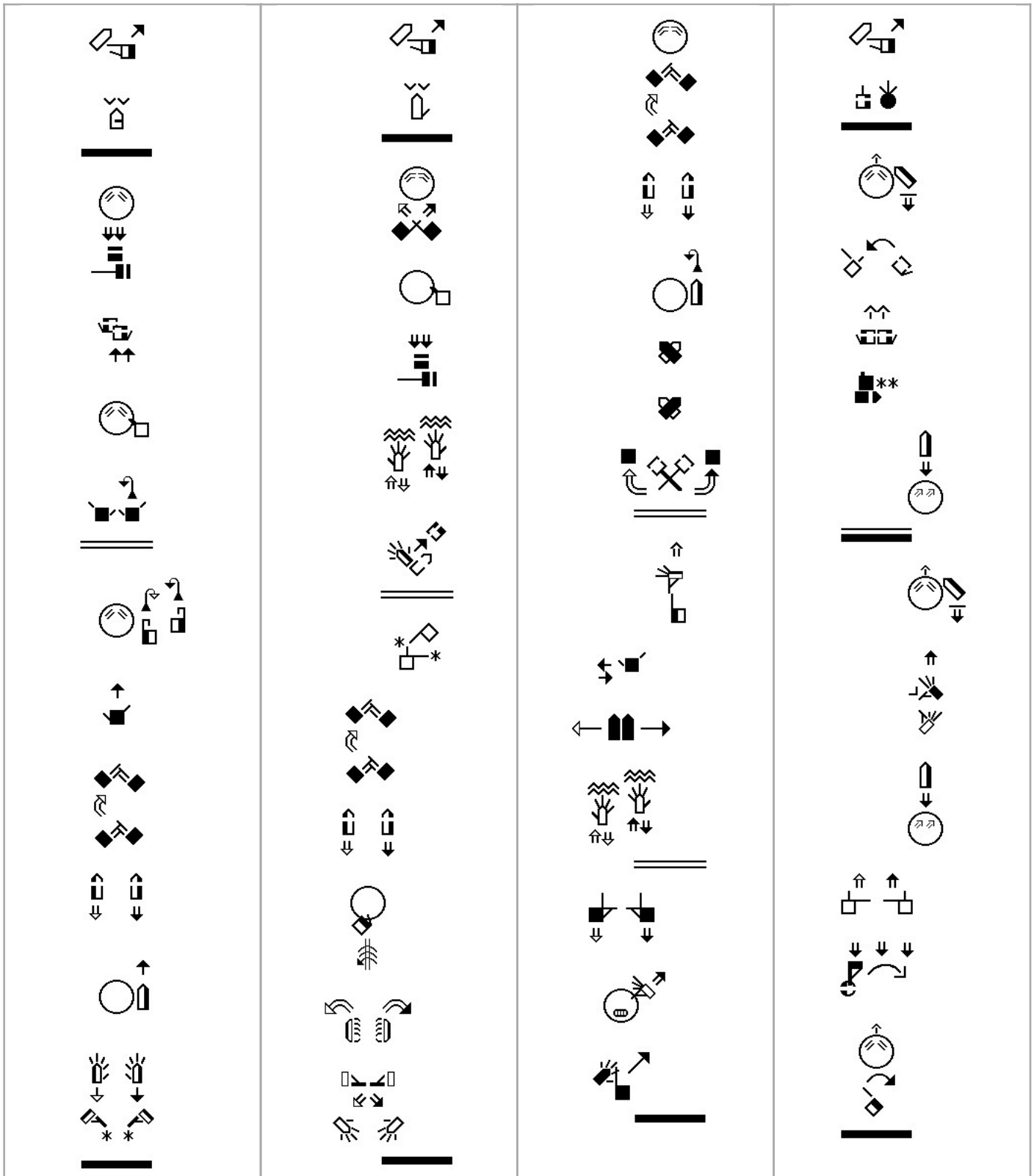
Verse 10. Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. Verse 11. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have -- Jesus Christ.

NLT



Verse 12. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials -- gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. Verse 13. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value.

NLT



Verse 14. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. Verse 15. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. Verse 16. Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? NLT

NLT

36



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Chapter 4. So look at Apollos and me as mere servants of Christ who have been put in charge of explaining God's mysteries. Verse 2. Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful. Verse 3. As for me, it matters very little how I might be evaluated by you or by any human authority. NLT

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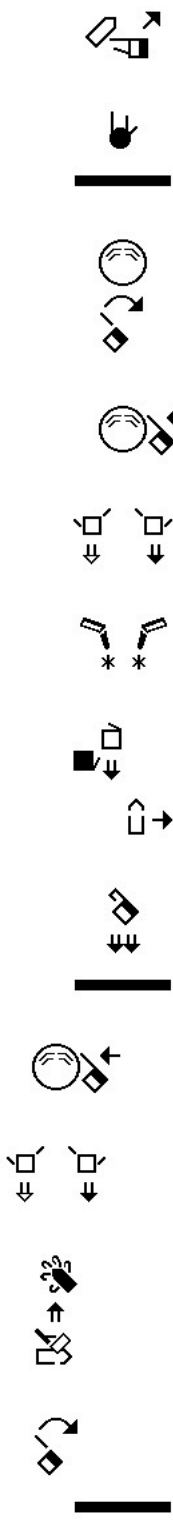
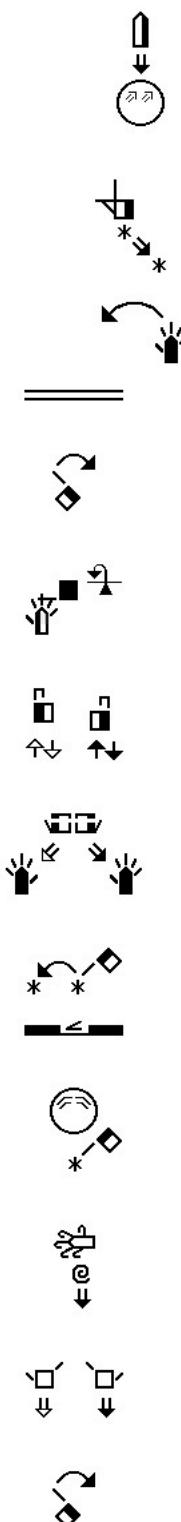
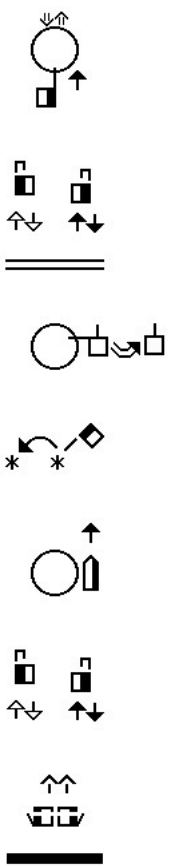

For he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due. Verse 6. Dear brothers and sisters, I have used Apollos and myself to illustrate what I've been saying. If you pay attention to what I have quoted

NLT

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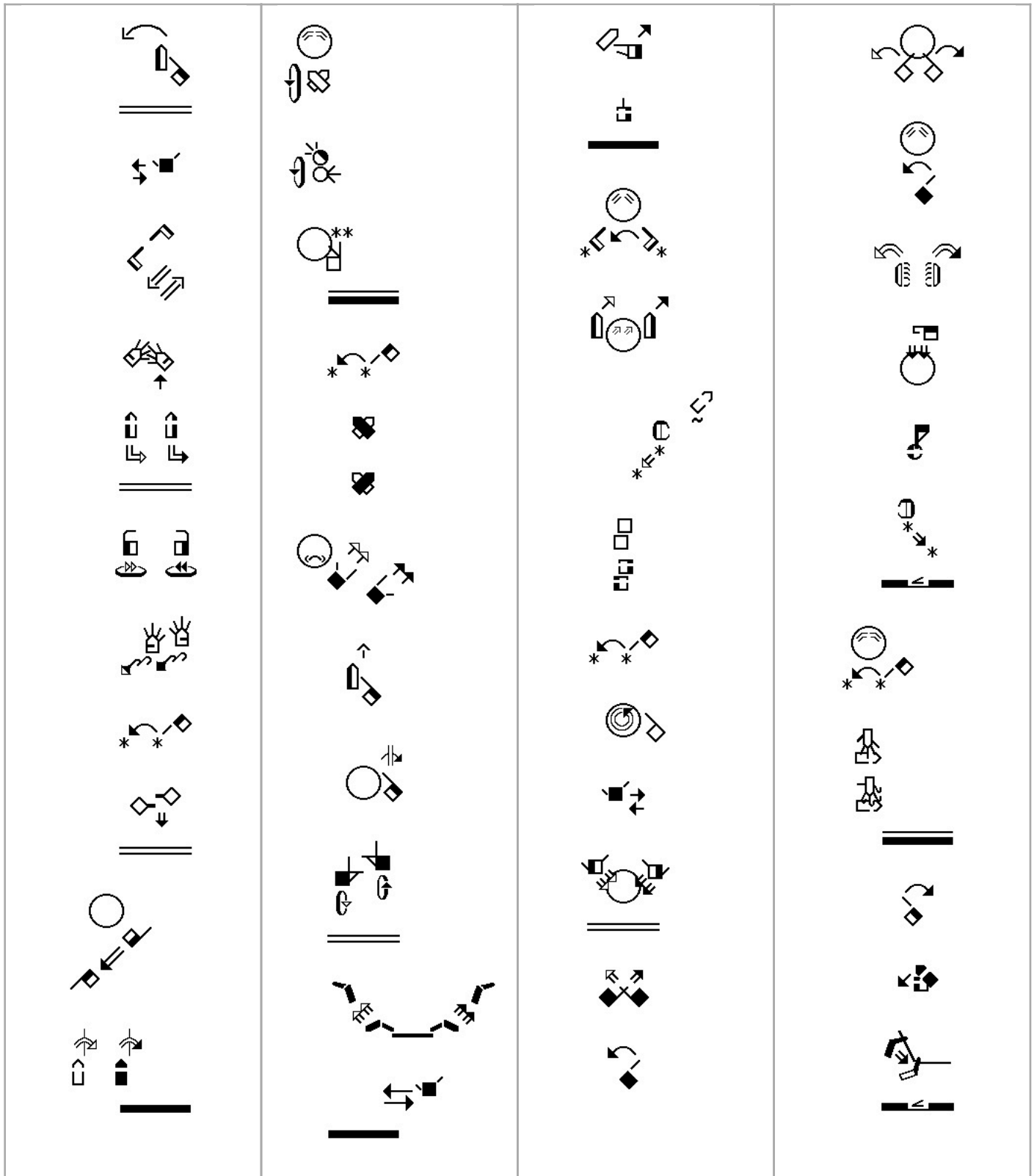
from the Scriptures, you won't be proud of one of your leaders at the expense of another. Verse 7. For what gives you the right to make such a judgment? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift?

NLT

			
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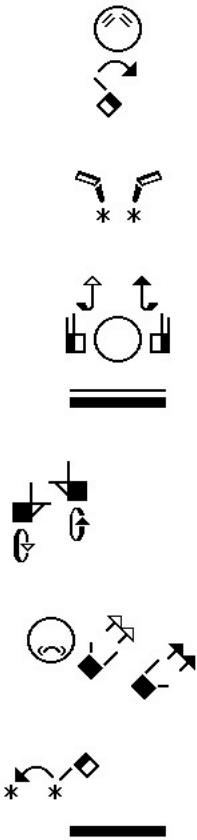
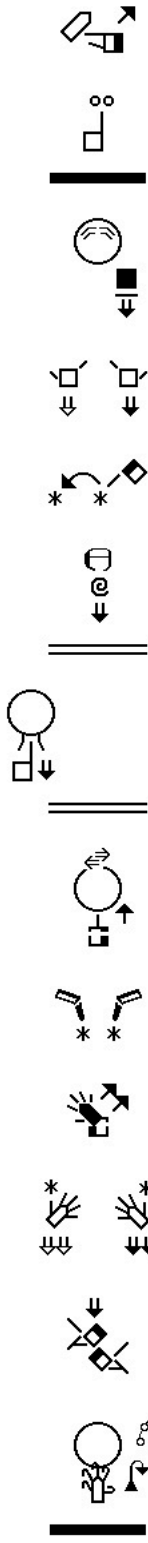


Verse 8. You think you already have everything you need. You think you are already rich. You have begun to reign in God's kingdom without us! I wish you really were reigning already, for then we would be reigning with you. Verse 9. Instead, I sometimes think God has put us apostles

NLT



on display, like prisoners of war at the end of a victor's parade, condemned to die. We have become a spectacle to the entire world -- to people and angels alike. Verse 10. Our dedication to Christ makes us look like fools, but you claim to be so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are so powerful!

NLT

			
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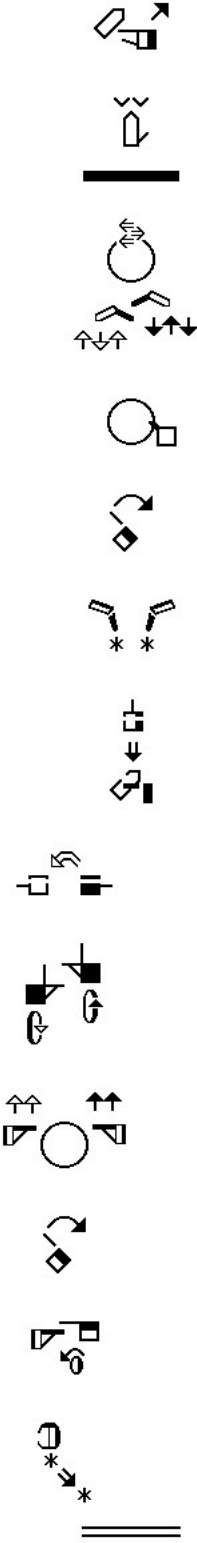
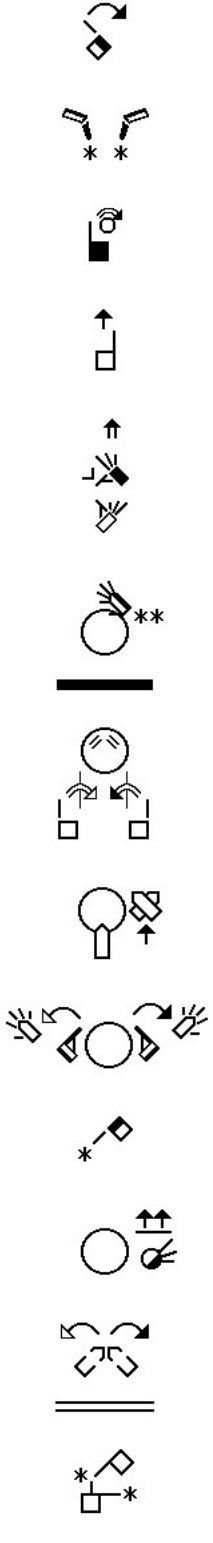
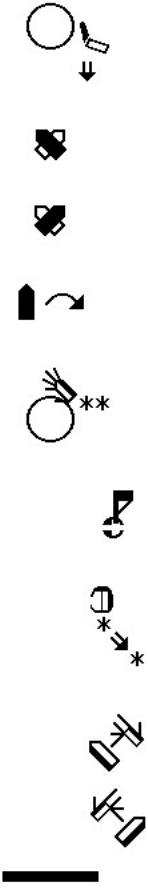
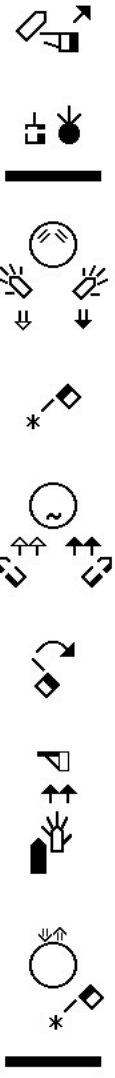
You are honored, but we are ridiculed. Verse 11. Even now we go hungry and thirsty, and we don't have enough clothes to keep warm. We are often beaten and have no home. Verse 12. We work wearily with our own hands to earn our living. We bless those who curse us.

NLT

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We are patient with those who abuse us. Verse 13. We appeal gently when evil things are said about us. Yet we are treated like the world's garbage, like everybody's trash -- right up to the present moment. Verse 14. I am not writing these things to shame you, but to warn you as my beloved children.

NLT

			
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Verse 15. For even if you had ten thousand others to teach you about Christ, you have only one spiritual father. For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you. Verse 16. So I urge you to imitate me. NLT

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Verse 17. That's why I have sent Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of how I follow Christ Jesus, just as I teach in all the churches wherever I go. Verse 18. Some of you have become arrogant, thinking I will not visit you again. NLT

48



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Chapter 5. I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality going on among you -- something that even pagans don't do. I am told that a man in your church is living in sin with his stepmother. Verse 2. You are so proud of yourselves, but you should be mourning in sorrow and shame. And you should remove this man from your fellowship.

NLT

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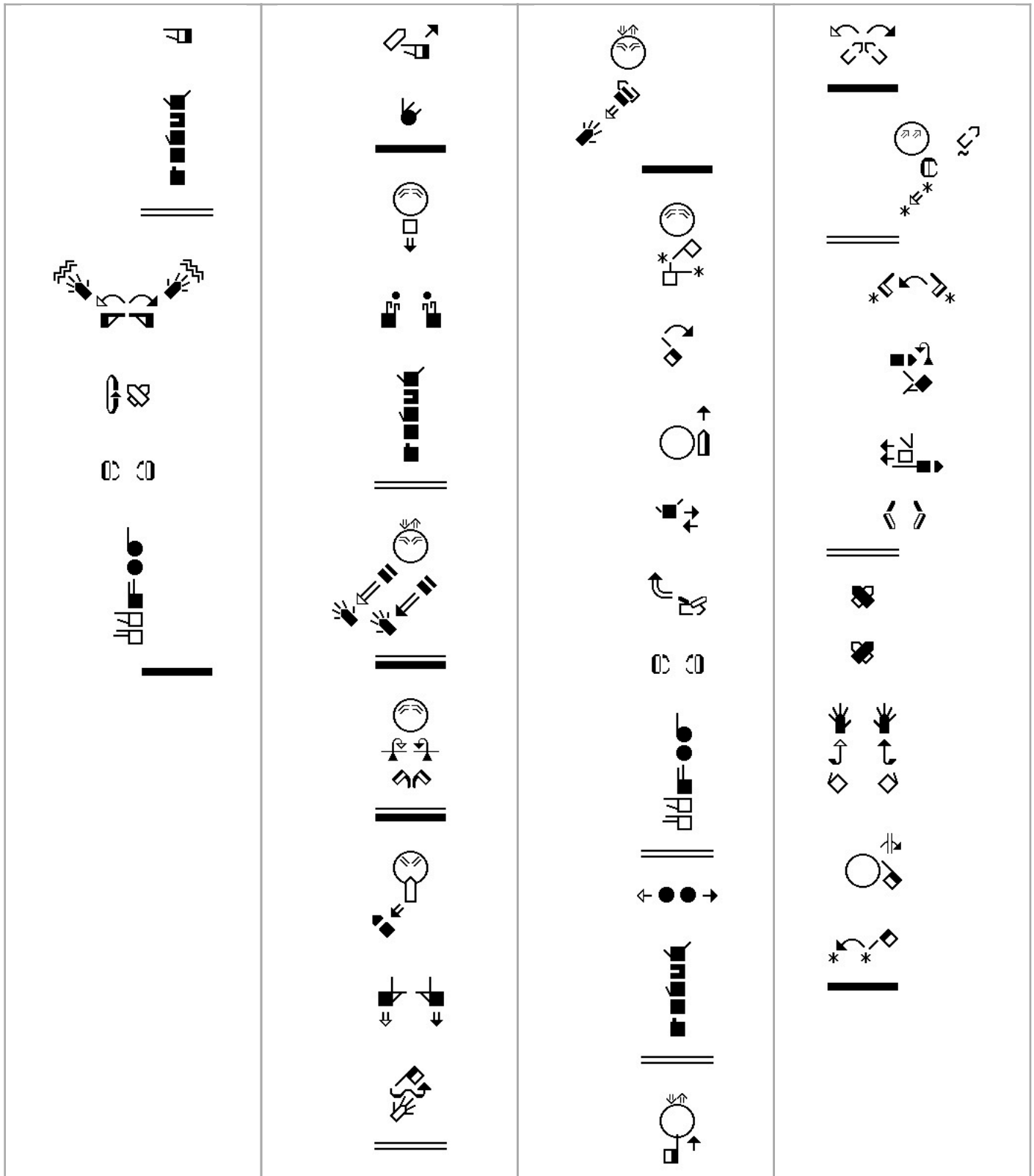
Verse 3. Even though I am not with you in person, I am with you in the Spirit. And as though I were there, I have already passed judgment on this man Verse 4. in the name of the Lord Jesus. You must call a meeting of the church. I will be present with you in spirit, and so will the power of our Lord Jesus.

NLT

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Verse 5. Then you must throw this man out and hand him over to Satan so that his sinful nature will be destroyed and he himself will be saved on the day the Lord returns. Verse 6. Your boasting about this is terrible. Don't you realize that this sin is like

NLT



a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough? Verse 7. Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.

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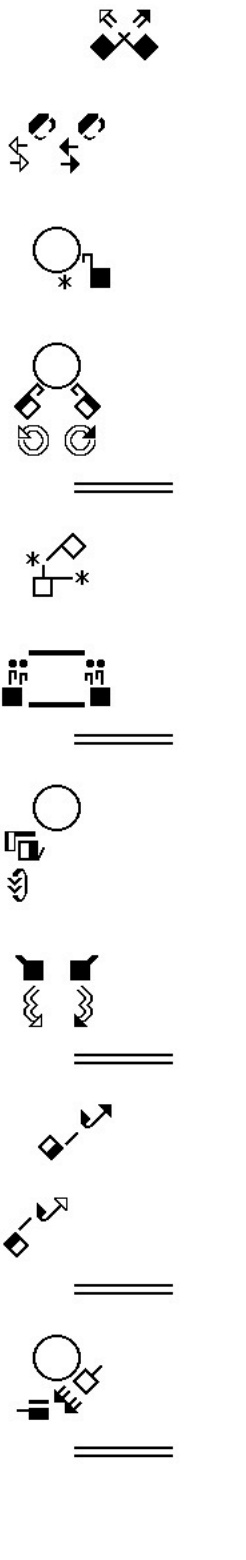

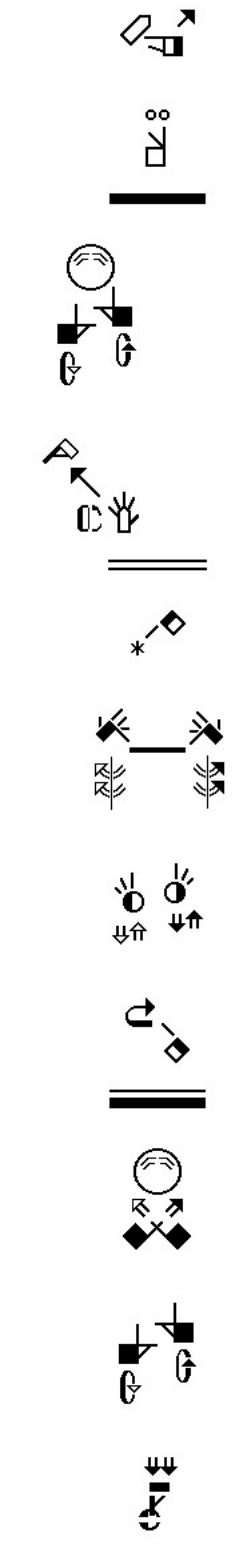
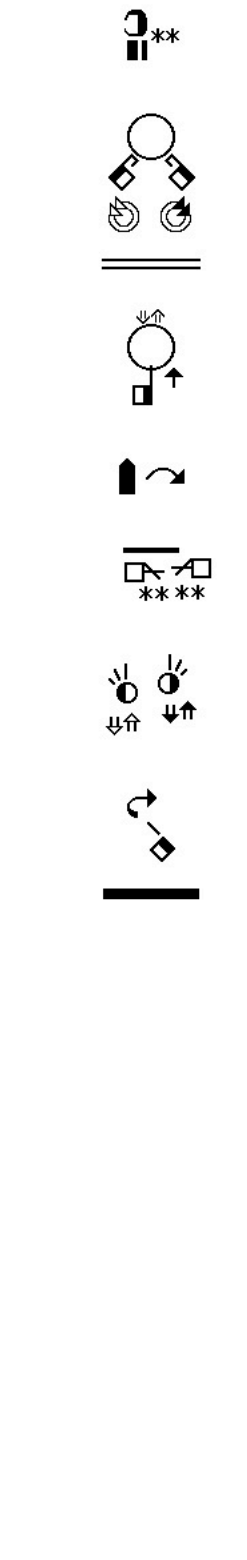
Verse 8. So let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread of wickedness and evil, but with the new bread of sincerity and truth. Verse 9. When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin.

NLT

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Verse 10. But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. Verse 11. I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer

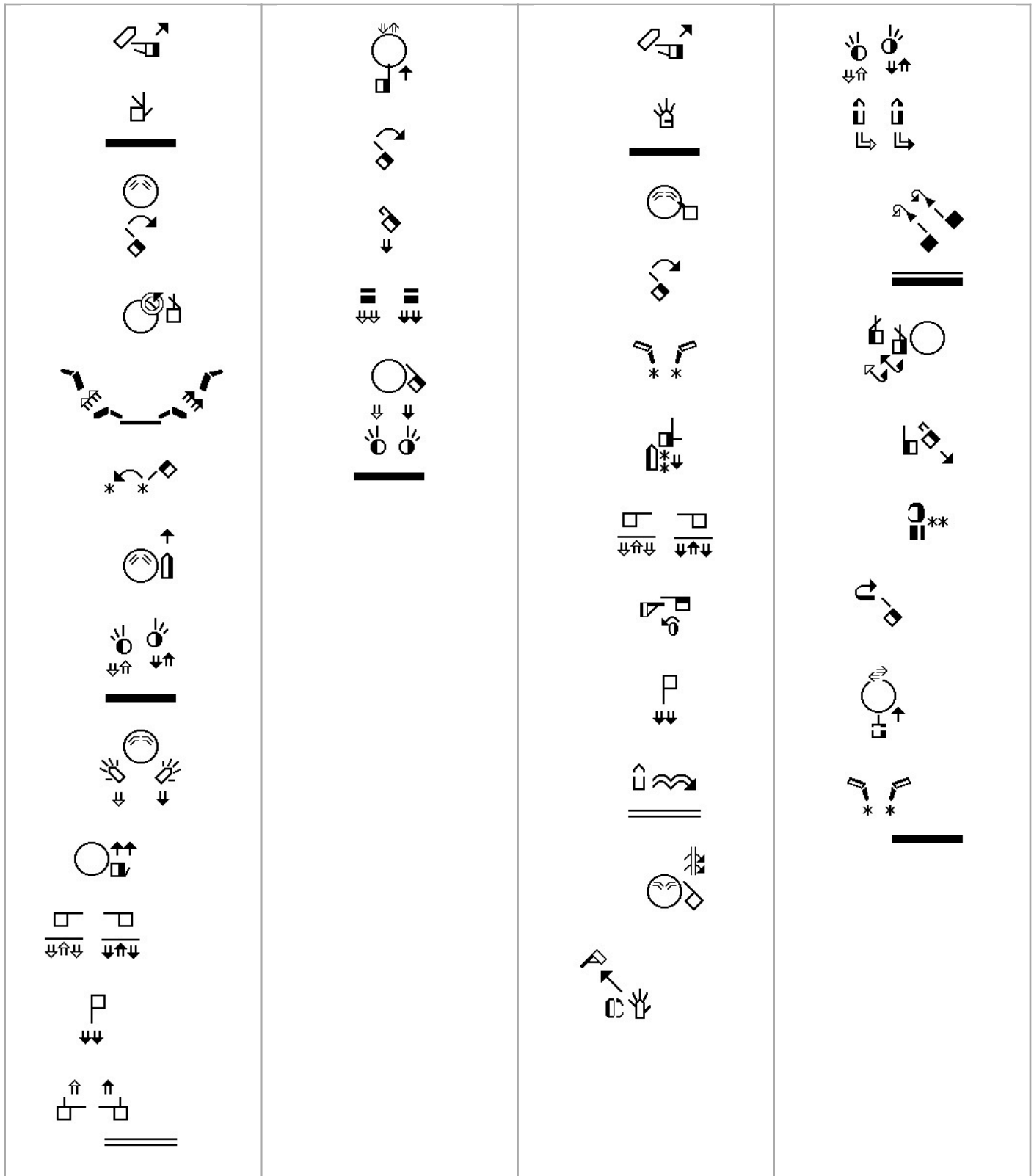
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





























































yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people. Verse 12. It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning.

NLT

Verse 13. God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you." NLT



Verse 3. Don't you realize that we will judge angels? So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life. Verse 4. If you have legal disputes about such matters, why go to outside judges who are not respected by the church? NLT

                   	          	                     	                   
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Verse 5. I am saying this to shame you. Isn't there anyone in all the church who is wise enough to decide these issues? Verse 6. But instead, one believer sues another -- right in front of unbelievers! Verse 7. Even to have such lawsuits with one another is a defeat for you. Why not

NLT

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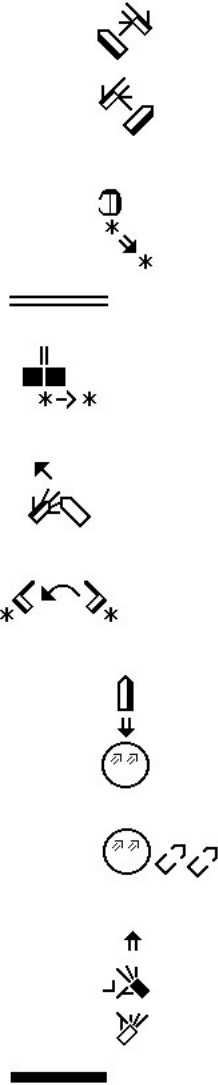
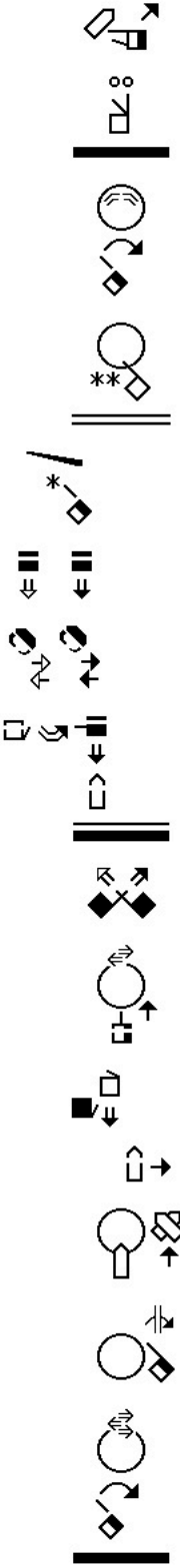
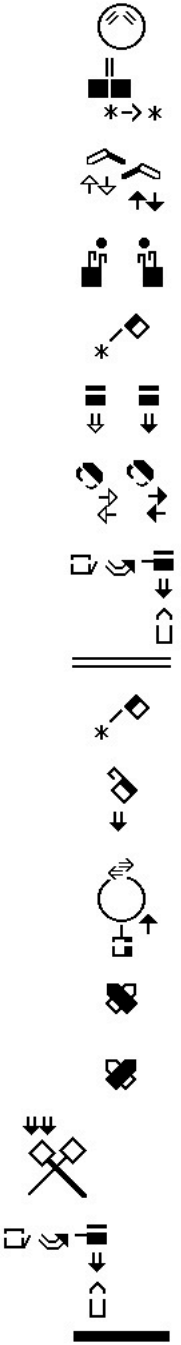
just accept the injustice and leave it at that? Why not let yourselves be cheated? Verse 8. Instead, you yourselves are the ones who do wrong and cheat even your fellow believers. Verse 9. Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or

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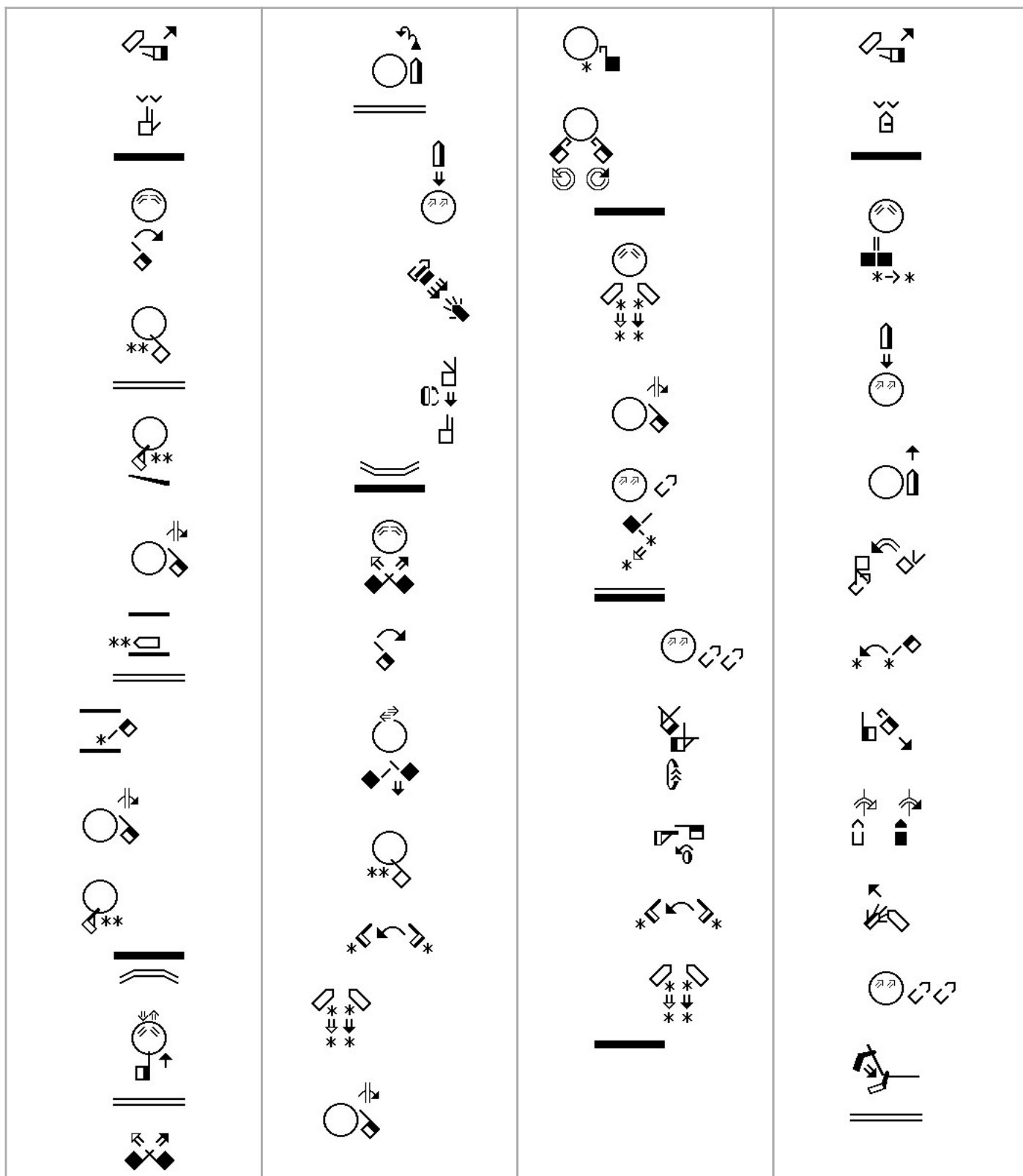
who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, Verse 10. or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people -- none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. Verse 11. Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed;

NLT

			
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you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. Verse 12. You say, "I am allowed to do anything: -- but not everything is good for you. And even though "I am allowed to do anything," I must not become a slave to anything.

NLT

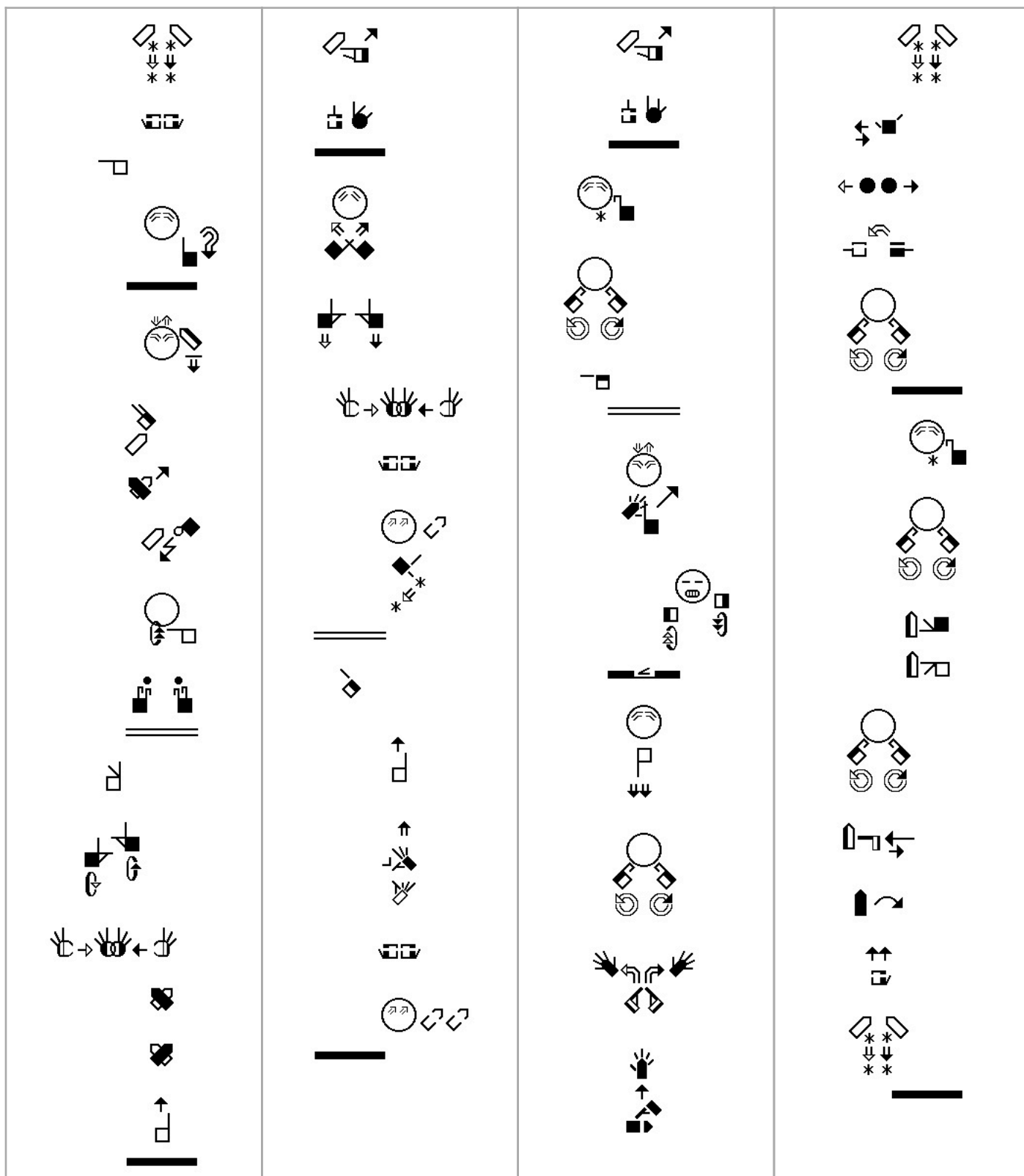


Verse 13. You say, "Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food." (This is true, though someday God will do away with both of them.) But you can't say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies. Verse 14. And God will raise us from the dead by his power,

NLT

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just as he raised our Lord from the dead. Verse 15. Don't you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man take his body, which is part of Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never! Verse 16. And don't you realize that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one



body with her? For the Scriptures say, "The two are united into one." Verse 17. But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Verse 18. Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.

NLT

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Verse 19. Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, Verse 20. for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. NLT

68

<p>ASL signs for Verse 4: Authority of husband over wife. The sequence includes signs for 'husband' (a hand holding a stick), 'authority' (a hand with a stick pointing down), 'wife' (a hand with a stick pointing up), 'body' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'give' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'authority' (a hand with a stick pointing down), 'husband' (a hand holding a stick), 'body' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'give' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'authority' (a hand with a stick pointing down), 'wife' (a hand with a stick pointing up), 'body' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'give' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'authority' (a hand with a stick pointing down), 'husband' (a hand holding a stick), 'body' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'give' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'authority' (a hand with a stick pointing down), 'wife' (a hand with a stick pointing up), 'body' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'give' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'authority' (a hand with a stick pointing down).</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 5: Mutual sexual relations. The sequence includes signs for 'sexual' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'relations' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'unless' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'you' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'both' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'agree' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'to' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'refrain' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'from' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'sexual' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'intimacy' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'for' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'a' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'limited' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'time' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'so' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'you' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'can' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'give' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'yourselves' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'more' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'completely' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'to' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'prayer' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest).</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 6: Mutual sexual relations. The sequence includes signs for 'sexual' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'relations' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'unless' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'you' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'both' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'agree' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'to' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'refrain' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'from' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'sexual' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'intimacy' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'for' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'a' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'limited' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'time' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'so' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'you' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'can' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'give' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'yourselves' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'more' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'completely' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'to' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'prayer' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest).</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 7: Mutual sexual relations. The sequence includes signs for 'sexual' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'relations' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'unless' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'you' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'both' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'agree' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'to' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'refrain' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'from' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'sexual' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'intimacy' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'for' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'a' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'limited' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'time' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'so' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'you' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'can' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'give' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'yourselves' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'more' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'completely' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'to' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest), 'prayer' (a hand with a stick pointing to the chest).</p>
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Verse 4. The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife. Verse 5. Do not deprive each other of sexual relations, unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer.

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Afterward, you should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt you because of your lack of self-control. Verse 6. I say this as a concession, not as a command. Verse 7. But I wish everyone were single, just as I am. But God gives to some

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<p>ASL signs for 'the gift of marriage' and 'the gift of singleness'. The sequence includes signs for 'gift' (hand holding a box), 'marriage' (two hands joined), 'singleness' (one hand), and 'gift' again.</p>	<p>ASL signs for 'So I say to those who aren't married'. The sequence includes signs for 'say' (hand pointing), 'those' (hand pointing to a group), 'who' (hand pointing), 'aren't' (hand with a slash), 'married' (two hands joined), and 'singleness' (one hand).</p>	<p>ASL signs for 'it's better to stay unmarried, just as I am'. The sequence includes signs for 'better' (hand pointing up), 'to' (hand pointing), 'stay' (hand pointing), 'unmarried' (two hands joined), 'just' (hand pointing), 'as' (hand pointing), 'I' (hand pointing), 'am' (hand pointing), and 'singleness' (one hand).</p>	<p>ASL signs for 'Verse 8. So I say to those who aren't married and to widows'. The sequence includes signs for 'verse' (hand pointing), '8' (hand pointing), 'say' (hand pointing), 'those' (hand pointing to a group), 'who' (hand pointing), 'aren't' (hand with a slash), 'married' (two hands joined), 'and' (hand pointing), 'to' (hand pointing), 'widows' (hand pointing to a group), and 'singleness' (one hand).</p>
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the gift of marriage, and to others the gift of singleness. Verse 8. So I say to those who aren't married and to widows -- it's better to stay unmarried, just as I am. Verse 9. But if they can't control themselves, they should go ahead and marry. It's better to marry than to burn with lust.

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Verse 10. But for those who are married, I have a command that comes not from me, but from the Lord. A wife must not leave her husband. Verse 11. But if she does leave him, let her remain single or else be reconciled to him. And the husband must not leave his wife.

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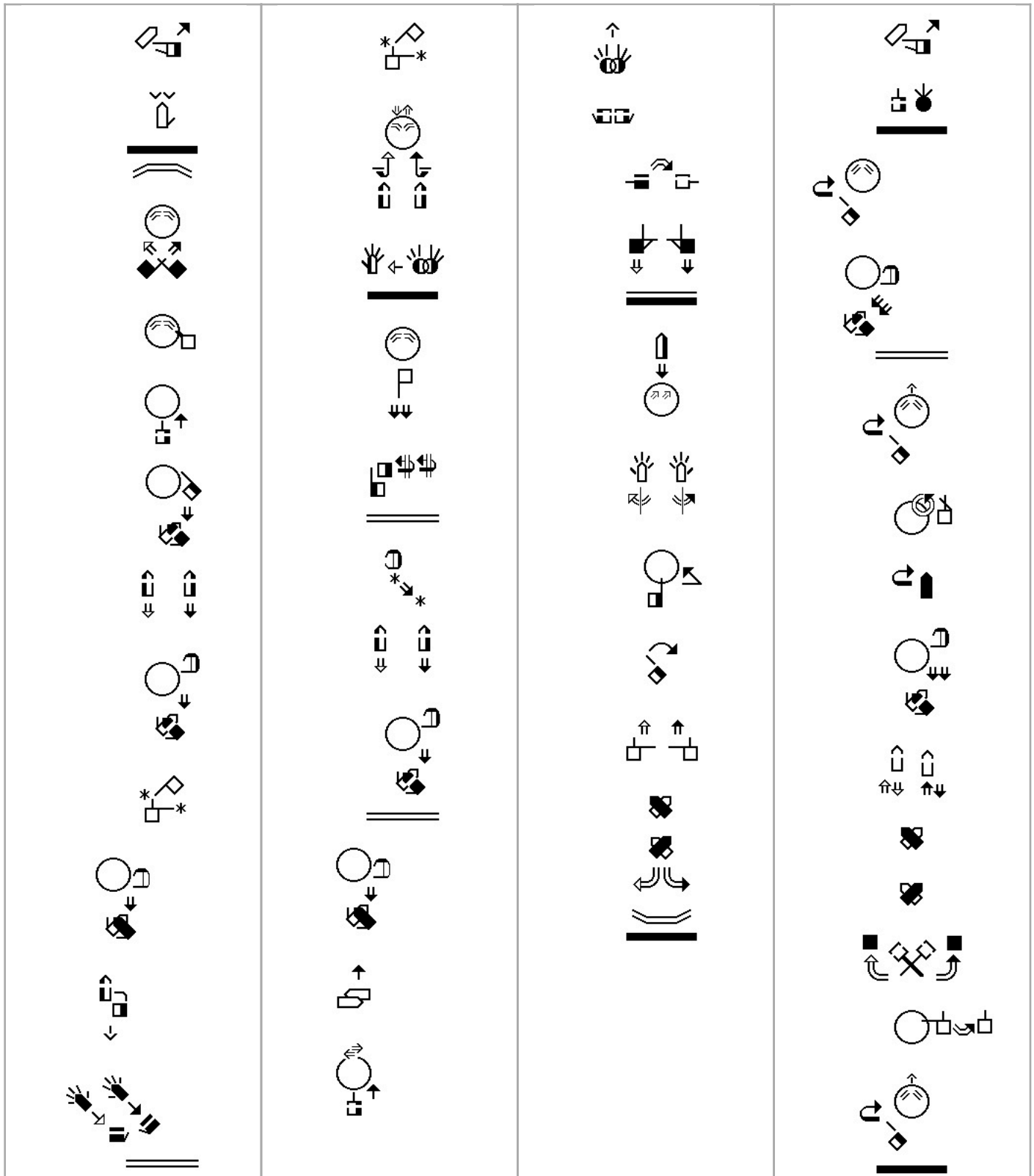
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Verse 12. Now, I will speak to the rest of you, though I do not have a direct command from the Lord. If a Christian man has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to continue living with him, he must not leave her. Verse 13. And if a Christian woman has a husband who is not a believer

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and he is willing to continue living with her, she must not leave him. Verse 14. For the Christian wife brings holiness to her marriage, and the Christian husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise, your children would not be holy, but now they are holy. NLT



Verse 15. (But if the husband or wife who isn't a believer insists on leaving, let them go. In such cases the Christian husband or wife is no longer bound to the other, for God has called you to live in peace.) Verse 16. Don't you wives realize that your husbands might be saved because of you?

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And don't you husbands realize that your wives might be saved because of you? Verse 17. Each of you should continue to live in whatever situation the Lord has placed you, and remain as you were when God first called you. This is my rule for all the churches. Verse 18. For instance, a man who was circumcised before he became a believer should

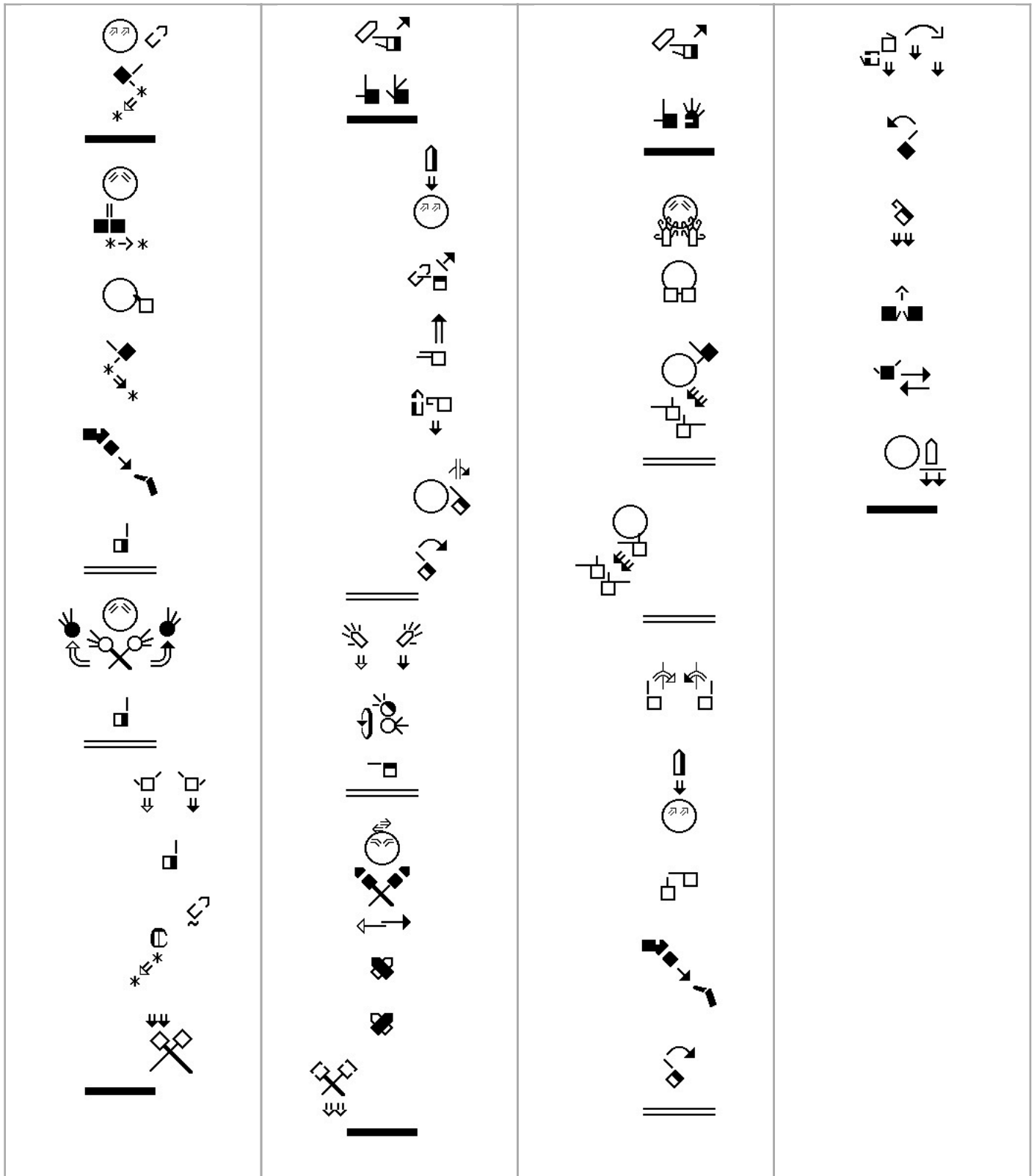
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77 not try to reverse it. And the man who was uncircumcised when he became a believer should not be circumcised now. Verse 19. For it makes no difference whether or not a man has been circumcised. The important thing is to keep God's commandments. NLT

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



































Verse 20. Yes, each of you should remain as you were when God called you. Verse 21. Are you a slave? Don't let that worry you -- but if you get a chance to be free, take it. Verse 22. And remember, if you were a slave when the Lord called you, you are now free in

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



































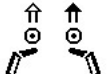
















the Lord. And if you were free when the Lord called you, you are now a slave of Christ. Verse 23. God paid a high price for you, so don't be enslaved by the world. Verse 24. Each of you, dear brothers and sisters, should remain as you were when God first called you.

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























































Verse 25. Now regarding your question about the young women who are not yet married. I do not have a command from the Lord for them. But the Lord in his mercy has given me wisdom that can be trusted, and I will share it with you. Verse 26. Because of the present crisis, I think it is best to remain as you are.

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



















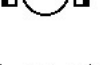

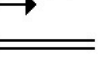












               	              	              	              
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Verse 27. If you have a wife, do not seek to end the marriage. If you do not have a wife, do not seek to get married. Verse 28. But if you do get married, it is not a sin. And if a young woman gets married, it is not a sin. However, those who get married at this time NLT

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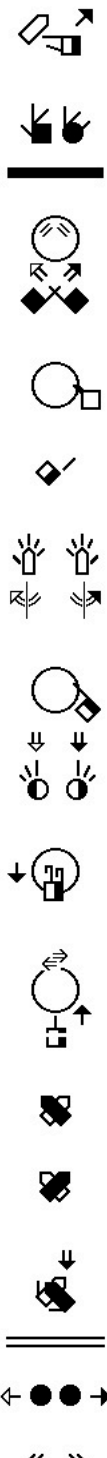
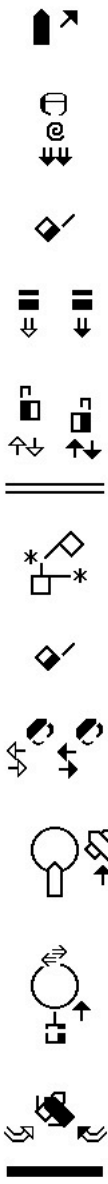
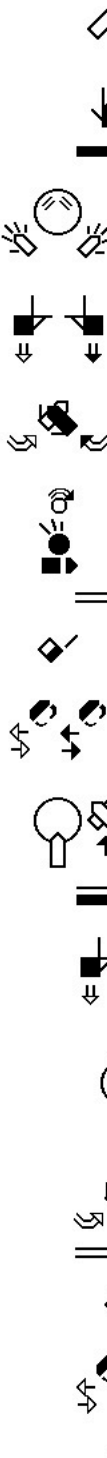
Verse 31. Those who use the things of the world should not become attached to them. For this world as we know it will soon pass away. Verse 32. I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him. NLT

        	        	        	        
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Verse 33. But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. Verse 34. His interests are divided. In the same way, a woman who is no longer married or has never been married can be devoted to the Lord and holy in body and in spirit. But

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a married woman has to think about her earthly responsibilities and how to please her husband. Verse 35. I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible. Verse 36. But if a man thinks that he's treating his fiancee improperly NLT
































































			
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and will inevitably give in to his passion, let him marry her as he wishes. It is not a sin. Verse 37. But if he has decided firmly not to marry and there is no urgency and he can control his passion, he does well not to marry. Verse 38. So the person who marries his fiancée does well, and the person who doesn't marry does even better. NLT

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Verse 39. A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. If her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but only if he loves the Lord. Verse 40. But in my opinion it would be better for her to stay single, and I think I am giving you counsel from God's Spirit when I say this.

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Chapter 8. Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that "we all have knowledge" about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church. Verse 2. Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn't really know very much.

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Verse 3. But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes. Verse 4. So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God. Verse 5. There may be so-called gods both in heaven and on earth.

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and some people actually worship many gods and many lords. Verse 6. But we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we live for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life.





















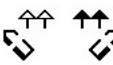
























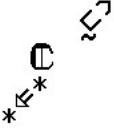




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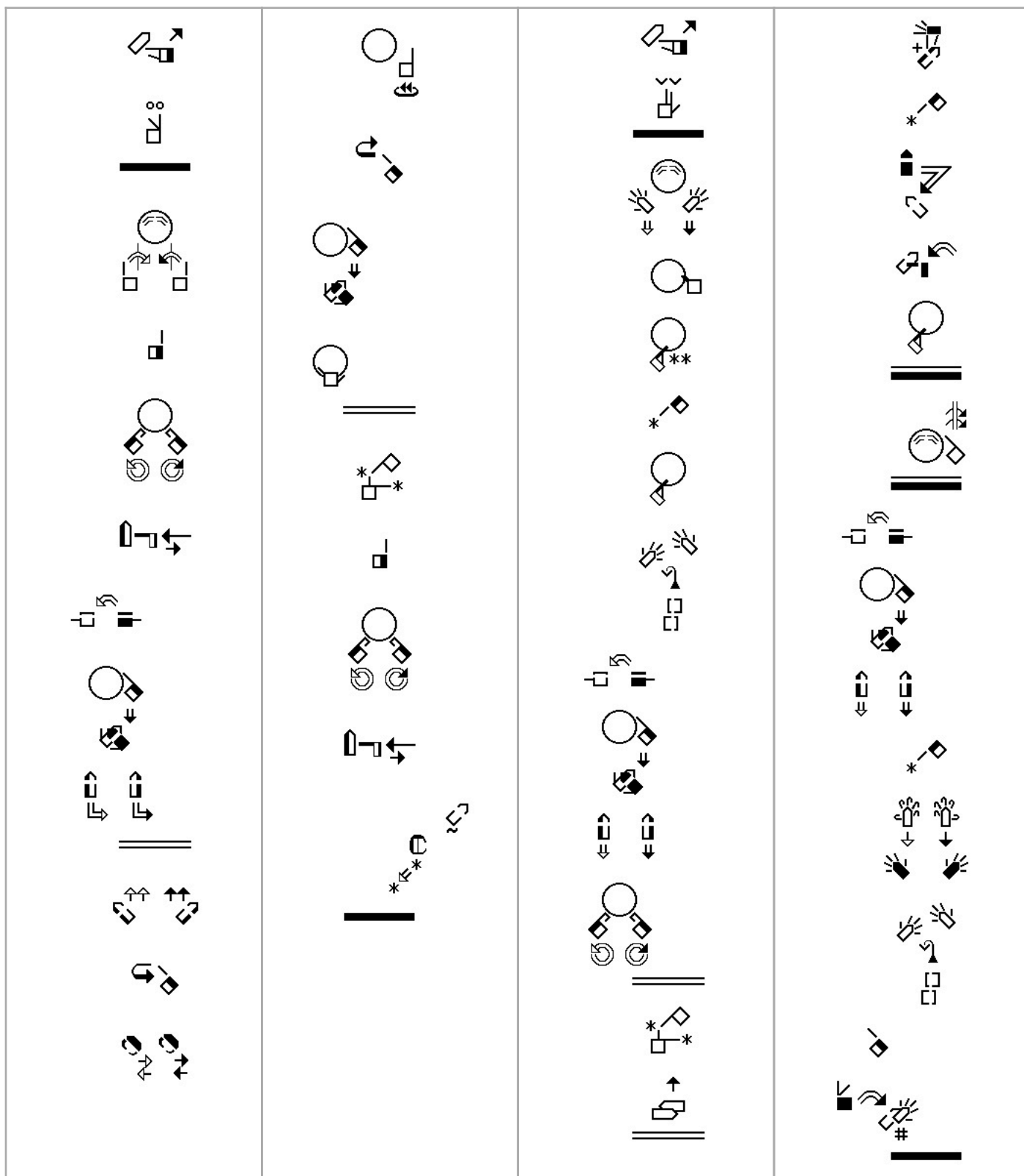
Verse 7. However, not all believers know this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated. Verse 8. It's true that we can't win God's approval by what we eat.

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Verse 10. For if others see you -- with your "superior knowledge" -- eating in the temple of an idol, won't they be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been offered to an idol? Verse 11. So because of your superior knowledge, a weak believer for whom Christ died will be destroyed. NLT



Verse 12. And when you sin against other believers by encouraging them to do something they believe is wrong, you are sinning against Christ. Verse 13. So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live -- for I don't want to cause another believer to stumble. NLT

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I certainly am to you. You yourselves are proof that I am the Lord's apostle. Verse 3. This is my answer to those who question my authority. Verse 4. Don't we have the right to live in your homes and share your meals? Verse 5. Don't we have the right to bring a Christian wife with us






































































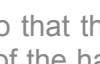


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as the other disciples and the Lord's brothers do, and as Peter does? Verse 6. Or is it only Barnabas and I who have to work to support ourselves? Verse 7. What soldier has to pay his own expenses? What farmer plants a vineyard and doesn't have the right to eat some of its fruit?

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What shepherd cares for a flock of sheep and isn't allowed to drink some of the milk?
 Verse 8. Am I expressing merely a human opinion, or does the law say the same thing?
 Verse 9. For the law of Moses says, "You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as
 it treads out the grain." Was God thinking only about oxen when he said this? NLT

                 	                 	                 	                 
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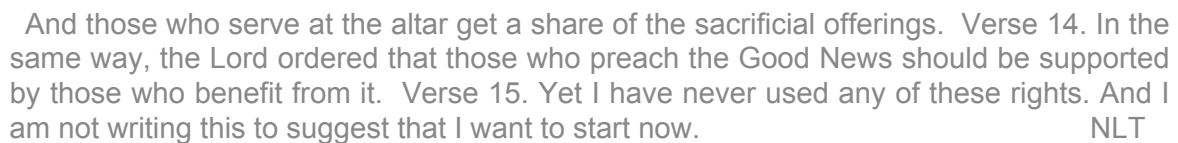
Verse 10. Wasn't he actually speaking to us? Yes, it was written for us, so that the one who plows and the one who threshes the grain might both expect a share of the harvest. Verse 11. Since we have planted spiritual seed among you, aren't we entitled to a harvest of physical food and drink?

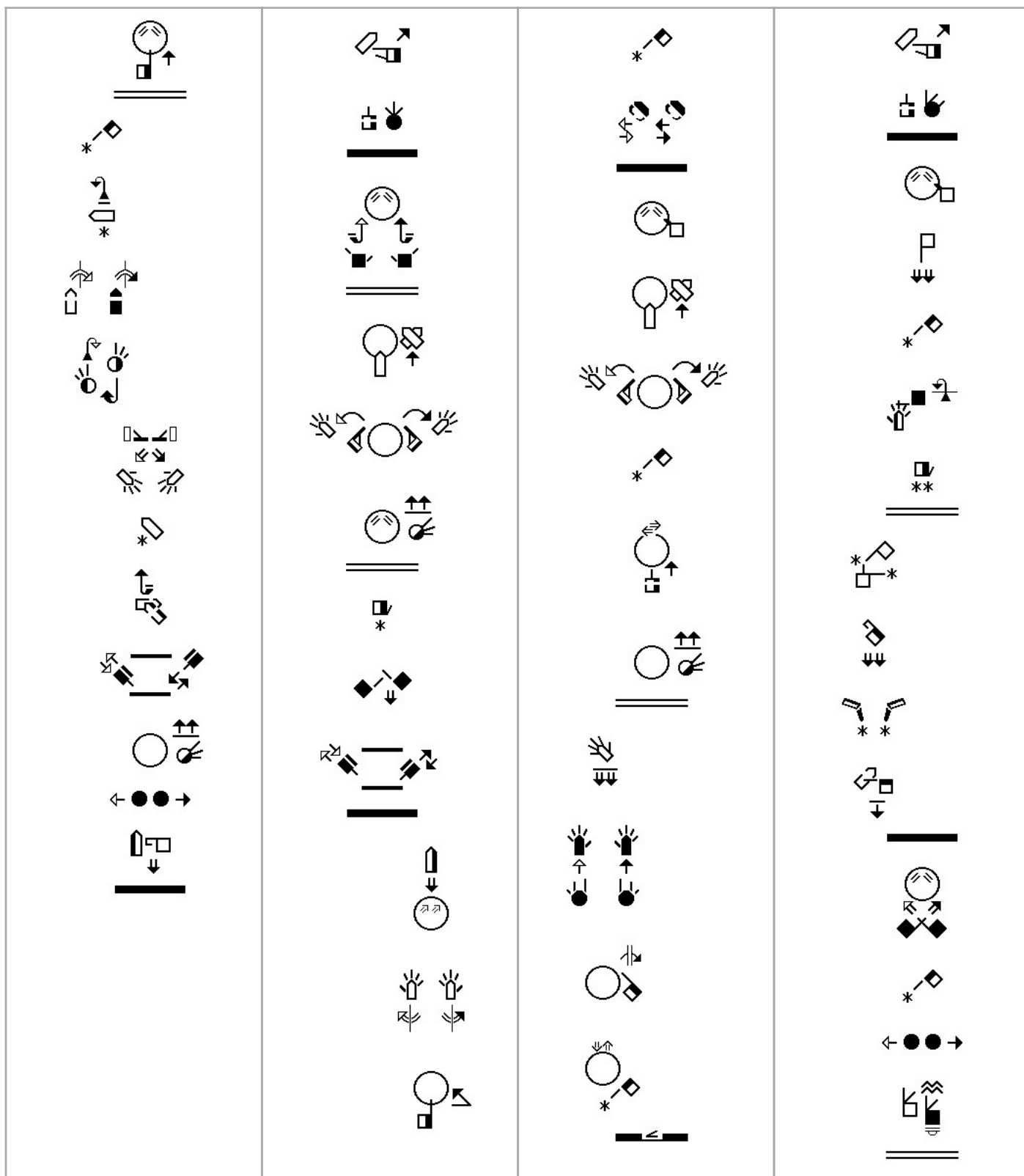
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Verse 12. If you support others who preach to you, shouldn't we have an even greater right to be supported? But we have never used this right. We would rather put up with anything than be an obstacle to the Good News about Christ. Verse 13. Don't you realize that those who work in the temple get their meals from the offerings brought to the temple?

NLT





In fact, I would rather die than lose my right to boast about preaching without charge. Verse 16. Yet preaching the Good News is not something I can boast about. I am compelled by God to do it. How terrible for me if I didn't preach the Good News! Verse 17. If I were doing this on my own initiative, I would deserve payment. But I have no choice,

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for God has given me this sacred trust. Verse 18. What then is my pay? It is the opportunity to preach the Good News without charging anyone. That's why I never demand my rights when I preach the Good News. Verse 19. Even though I am a free man with no master, I

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

































































have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. Verse 20. When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law.

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








































Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. Verse 21. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ.

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Verse 22. When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. Verse 23. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

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Verse 24. Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! Verse 25. All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. NLT

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



























































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Chapter 10. I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground. Verse 2. In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses.

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Verse 8. And we must not engage in sexual immorality as some of them did, causing 23,000 of them to die in one day. Verse 9. Nor should we put Christ to the test, as some of them did and then died from snakebites.









































































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Verse 10. And don't grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. Verse 11. These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age. Verse 12. If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.

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Verse 15. You are reasonable people. Decide for yourselves if what I am saying is true. Verse 16. When we bless the cup at the Lord's Table, aren't we sharing in the blood of Christ? And when we break the bread, aren't we sharing in the body of Christ? Verse 17. And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body. NLT

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not to God. And I don't want you to participate with demons. Verse 21. You cannot drink from the cup of the Lord and from the cup of demons, too. You cannot eat at the Lord's Table and at the table of demons, too. Verse 22. What? Do we dare to rouse the Lord's jealousy? Do you think we are stronger than he is?

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Verse 23. You say, "I am allowed to do anything" -- but not everything is good for you. You say, "I am allowed to do anything" -- but not everything is beneficial. Verse 24. Don't be concerned for your own good but for the good of others. Verse 25. So you may eat any meat that is sold in the marketplace without raising questions of conscience. NLT

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Verse 26. For "the earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it." Verse 27. If someone who isn't a believer asks you home for dinner, accept the invitation if you want to. Eat whatever is offered to you without raising questions of conscience. Verse 28. (But suppose someone tells you, "This meat was offered to an idol."

NLT

Don't eat it, out of consideration for the conscience of the one who told you. Verse 29. It might not be a matter of conscience for you, but it is for the other person.) For why should my freedom be limited by what someone else thinks? Verse 30. If I can thank God for the food and enjoy it,

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why should I be condemned for eating it? Verse 31. So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Verse 32. Don't give offense to Jews or Gentiles or the church of God. Verse 33. I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. NLT

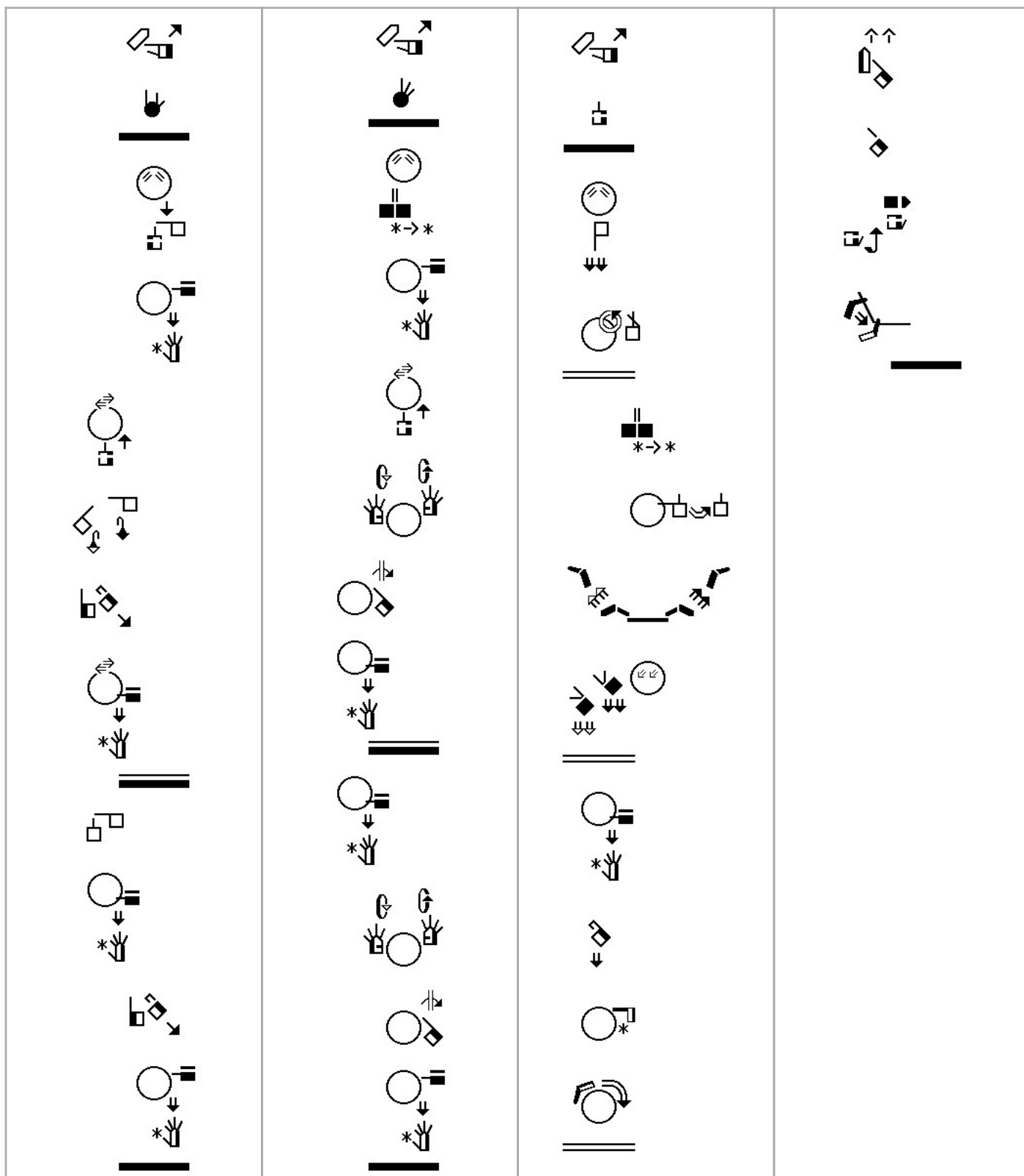
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Chapter 11. And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ. Verse 2. I am so glad that you always keep me in your thoughts, and that you are following the teachings I passed on to you. Verse 3. But there is one thing I want you to know: The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. NLT

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Verse 4. A man dishonors his head if he covers his head while praying or prophesying.
 Verse 5. But a woman dishonors her head if she prays or prophesies without a covering
 on her head, for this is the same as shaving her head.
 NLT



Verse 8. For the first man didn't come from woman, but the first woman came from man.
 Verse 9. And man was not made for woman, but woman was made for man. Verse 10.
 For this reason, and because the angels are watching, a woman should wear a covering
 on her head to show she is under authority. NLT

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Verse 11. But among the Lord's people, women are not independent of men, and men are not independent of women. Verse 12. For although the first woman came from man, every other man was born from a woman, and everything comes from God. NLT

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Verse 13. Judge for yourselves. Is it right for a woman to pray to God in public without covering her head? Verse 14. Isn't it obvious that it's disgraceful for a man to have long hair? Verse 15. And isn't long hair a woman's pride and joy? For it has been given to her as a covering. Verse 16. But if anyone wants to argue about this, I simply say NLT

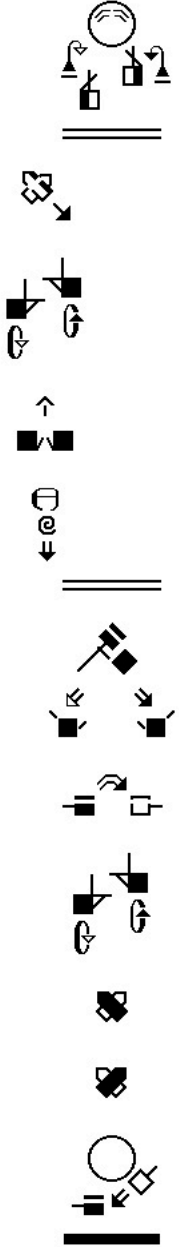
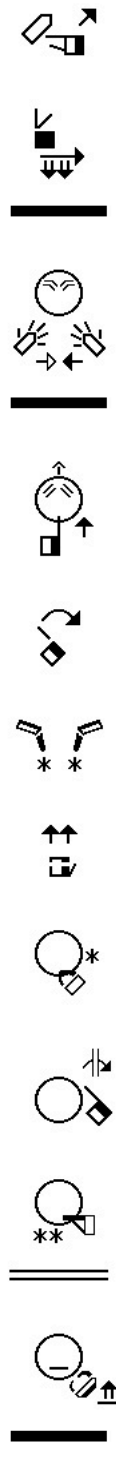
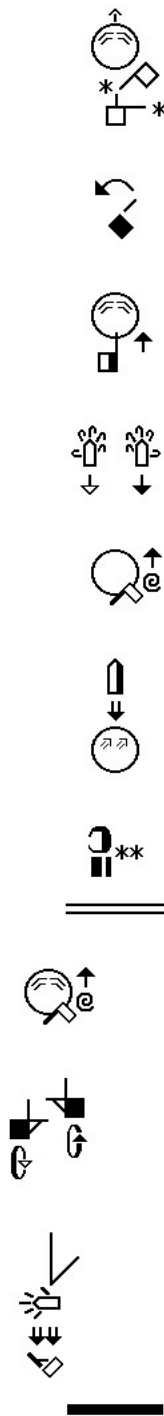

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that we have no other custom than this, and neither do God's other churches. Verse 17. But in the following instructions, I cannot praise you. For it sounds as if more harm than good is done when you meet together. Verse 18. First, I hear that there are divisions among you when you meet as a church, and to some extent I believe it. NLT

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Verse 19. But, of course, there must be divisions among you so that you who have God's approval will be recognized! Verse 20. When you meet together, you are not really interested in the Lord's Supper. Verse 21. For some of you hurry to eat your own meal without sharing with others.

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As a result, some go hungry while others get drunk. Verse 22. What? Don't you have your own homes for eating and drinking? Or do you really want to disgrace God's church and shame the poor? What am I supposed to say? Do you want me to praise you? NLT

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Well, I certainly will not praise you for this! Verse 23. For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread Verse 24. and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said,

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"This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me." Verse 25. In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people -- an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it."

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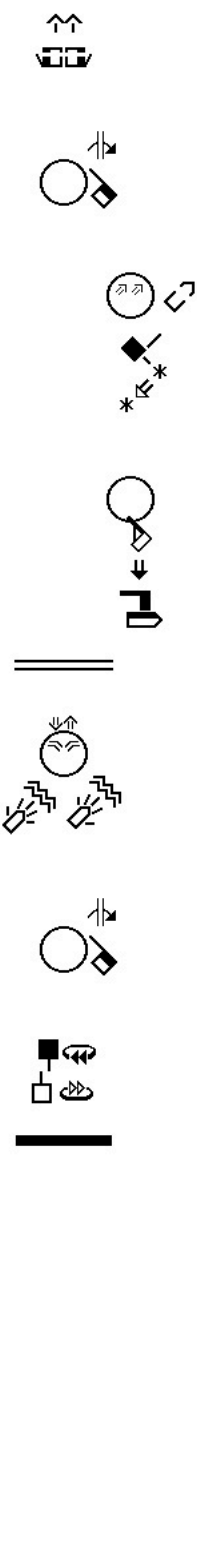
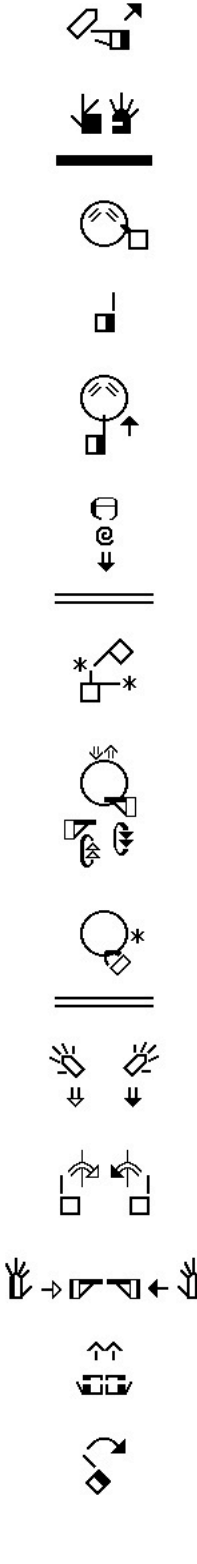
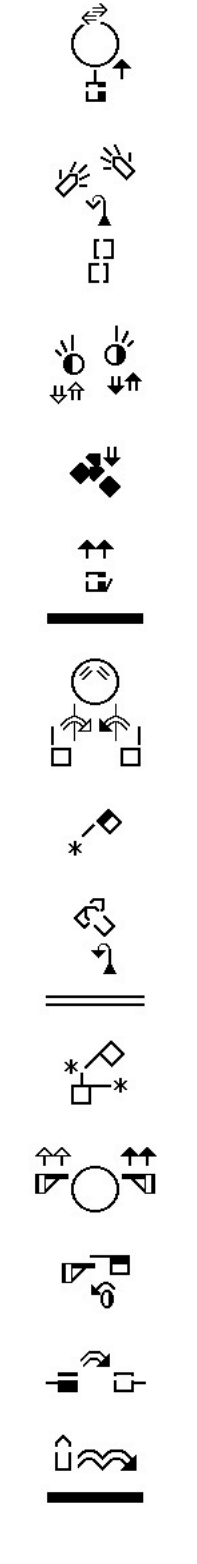
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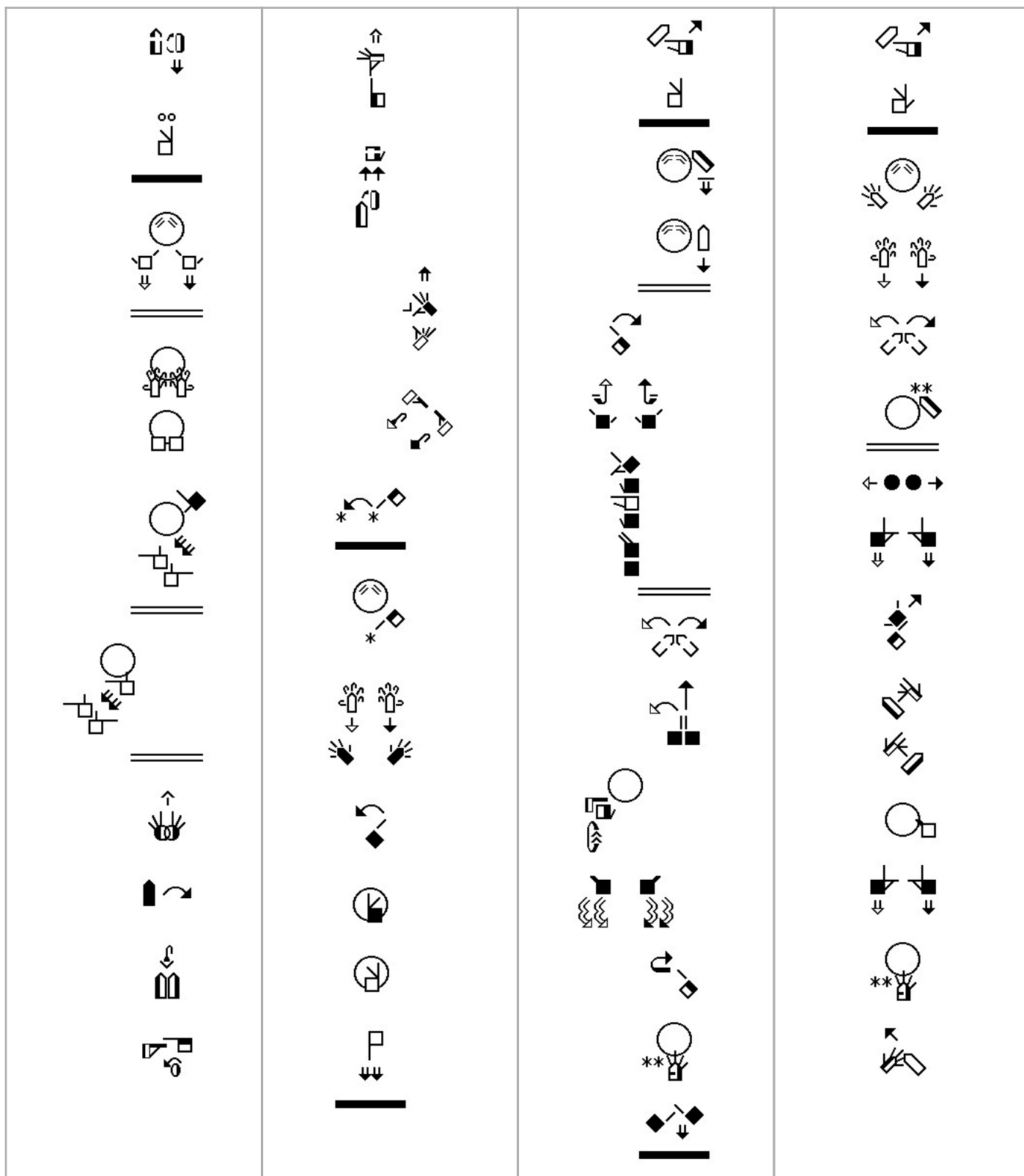
Verse 28. That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup. Verse 29. For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself. Verse 30. That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.

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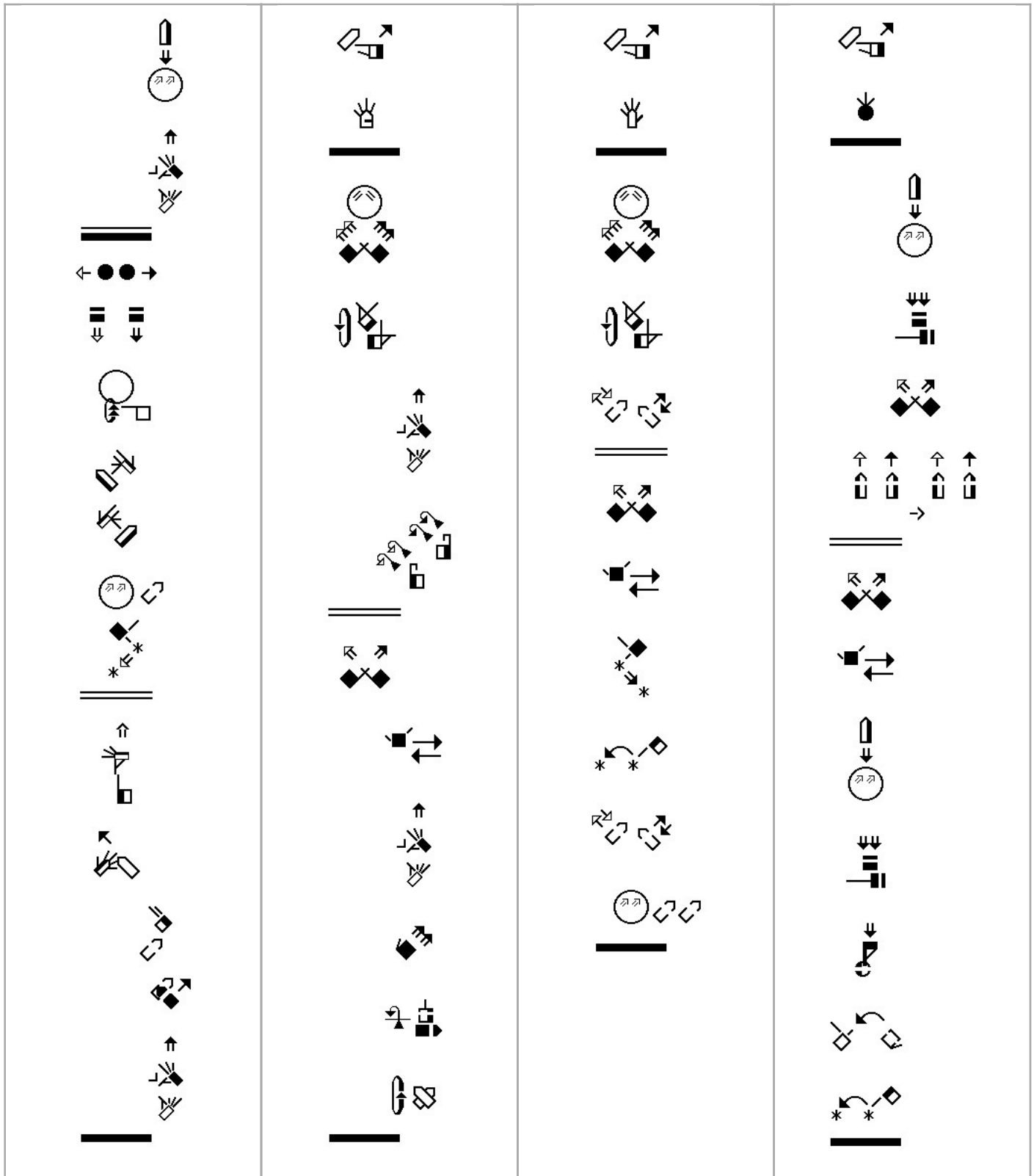
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for the Lord's Supper, wait for each other. Verse 34. If you are really hungry, eat at home so you won't bring judgment upon yourselves when you meet together. I'll give you instructions about the other matters after I arrive.



Chapter 12. Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this. Verse 2. You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray and swept along in worshipping speechless idols. Verse 3. So I want you know that no one speaking by



the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit. Verse 4. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. Verse 5. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. Verse 6. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

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the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. Verse 10. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another

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








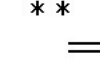





































































is given the ability to interpret what is being said. Verse 11. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. Verse 12. The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up

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one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Verse 13. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. Verse 14. Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part.

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Verse 15. If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. Verse 16. And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body?
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Verse 17. If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? Verse 18. But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. Verse 19. How strange a body would be if it had only one part!

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Verse 23. And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, Verse 24. while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity.



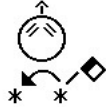

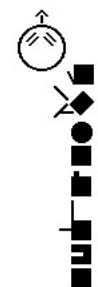
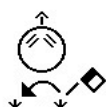
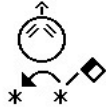


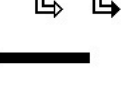


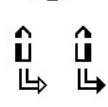









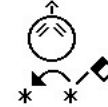


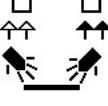






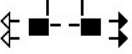







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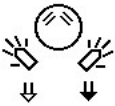









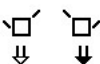
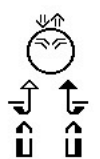



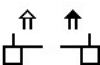


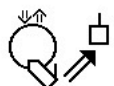

Verse 28. Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages.





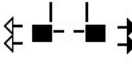













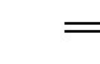










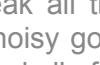





























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Verse 29. Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? Verse 30. Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not!

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Chapter 13. If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. Verse 2. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans

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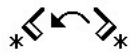








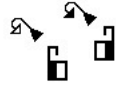












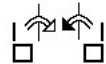



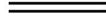














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I would have gained nothing. Verse 4. Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud Verse 5. or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. NLT















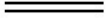







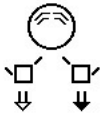
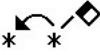




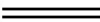








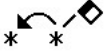




         	         	         	         
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Verse 6. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.
Verse 7. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Verse 8. Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless.

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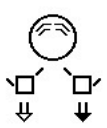

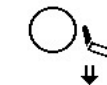










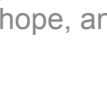

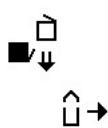
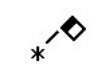











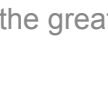




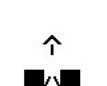



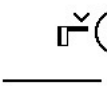




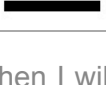


    	             	             	               
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But love will last forever! Verse 9. Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! Verse 10. But when full understanding comes, these partial things will become useless. NLT

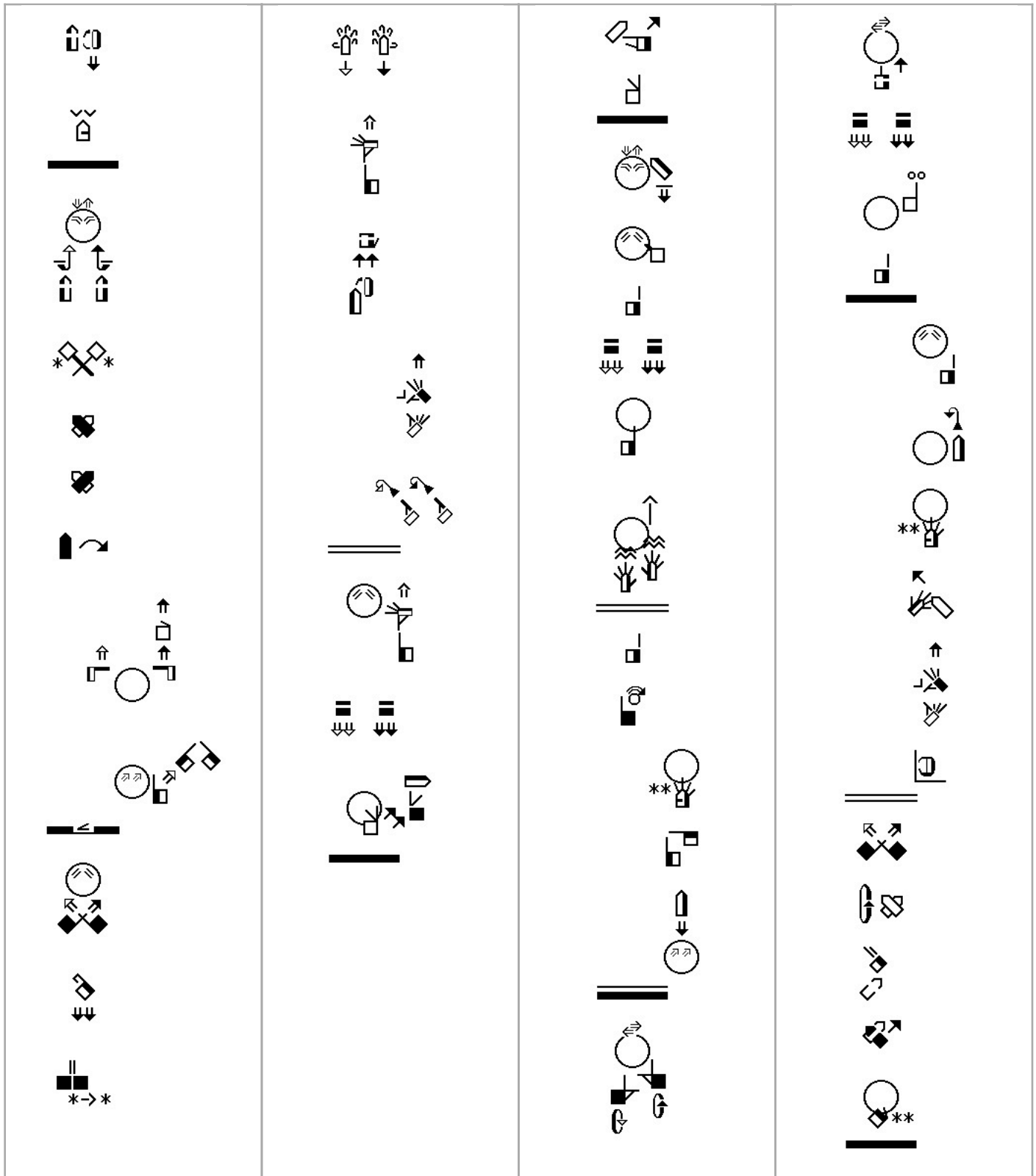
          	        	            	        
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Verse 11. When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. Verse 12. Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.

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All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. Verse 13. Three things will last forever -- faith, hope, and love -- and the greatest of these is love.



Chapter 14. Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives -- especially the ability to prophesy. Verse 2. For if you have the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking only to God, since people won't be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be mysterious.

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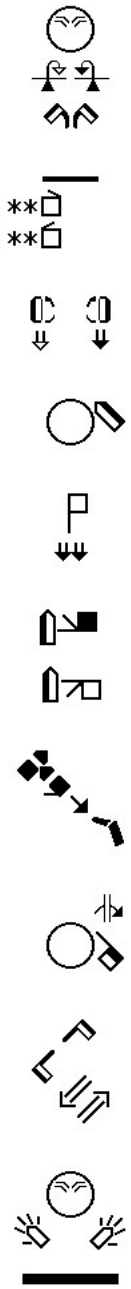
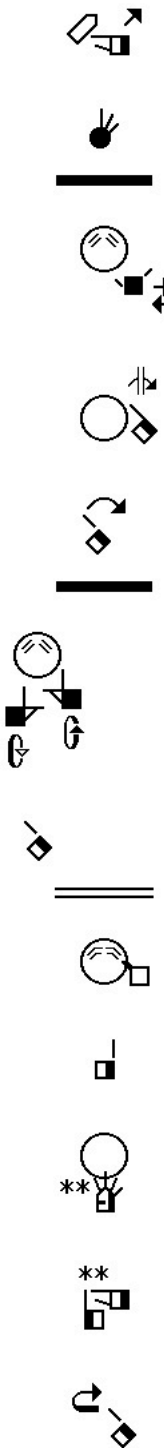
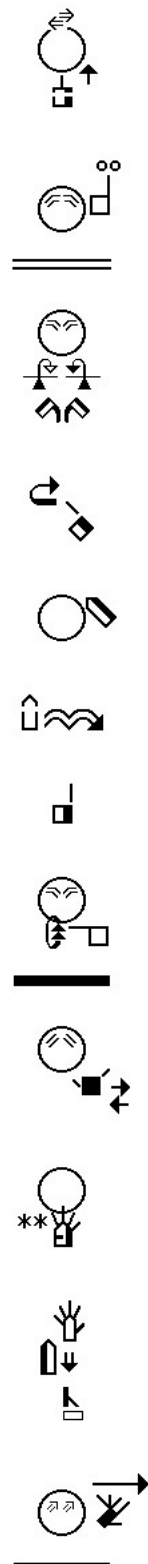
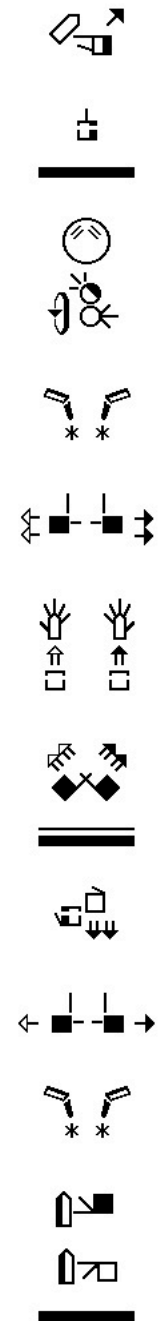
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Verse 3. But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them. Verse 4. A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church. Verse 5. I wish you could all speak in tongues, but even more
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I wish you could all prophesy. For prophecy is greater than speaking in tongues, unless someone interprets what you are saying so that the whole church will be strengthened. Verse 6. Dear brothers and sisters, if I should come to you speaking in an unknown language, how would that help you? But if I bring you a revelation or some special knowledge or prophecy or NLT

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how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? Verse 9. It's the same for you. If you speak to people in words they don't understand, how will they know what you are saying? You might as well be talking into empty space. Verse 10. There are many different languages in the world, and every language has meaning. NLT

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Verse 11. But if I don't understand a language, I will be a foreigner to someone who speaks it, and the one who speaks it will be a foreigner to me. Verse 12. And the same is true for you. Since you are so eager to have the special abilities the Spirit gives, seek those that will strengthen the whole church.

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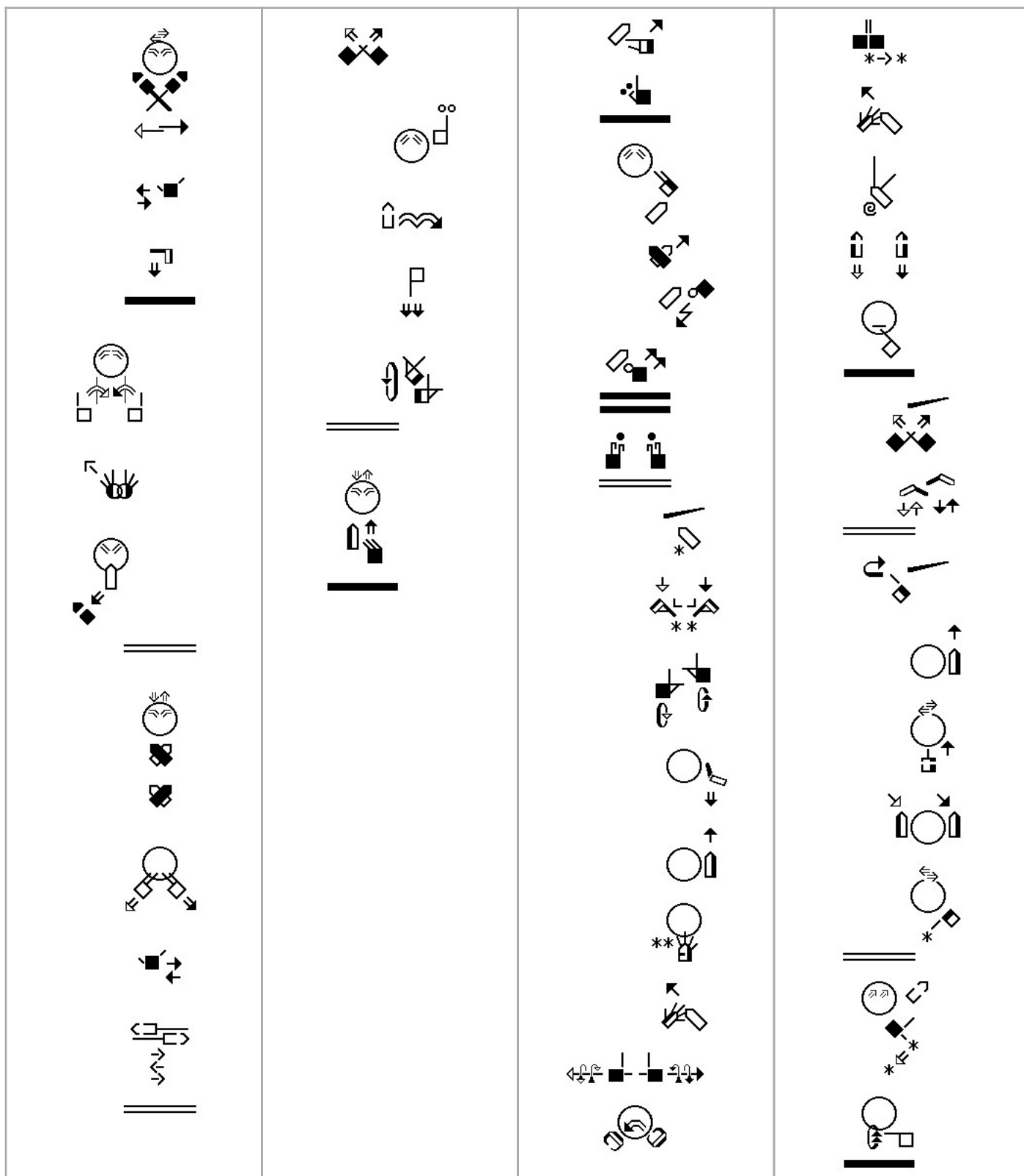
Verse 13. So anyone who speaks in tongues should pray also for the ability to interpret what has been said. Verse 14. For if I pray in tongues, my spirit is praying, but I don't understand what I am saying. Verse 15. Well then, what shall I do? I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand. NLT

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Verse 18. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than any of you. Verse 19. But in a church meeting I would rather speak five understandable words to help others than ten thousand words in an unknown language. Verse 20. Dear brothers and sisters, don't be childish in your understanding of these things.

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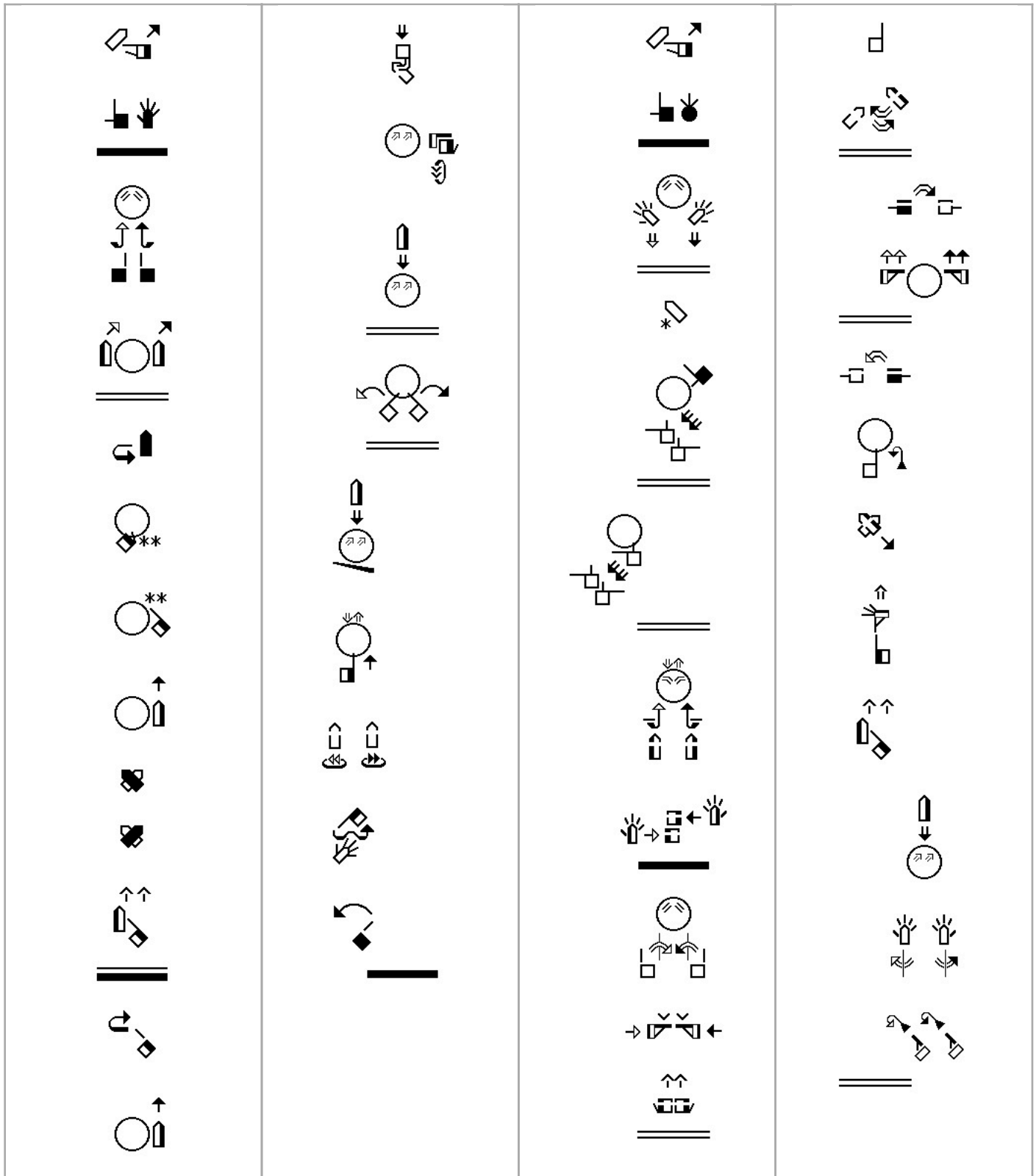


Be innocent as babies when it comes to evil, but be mature in understanding matters of this kind. Verse 21. It is written in the Scriptures: "I will speak to my own people through strange languages and through the lips of foreigners. But even then, they will not listen to me," says the LORD.

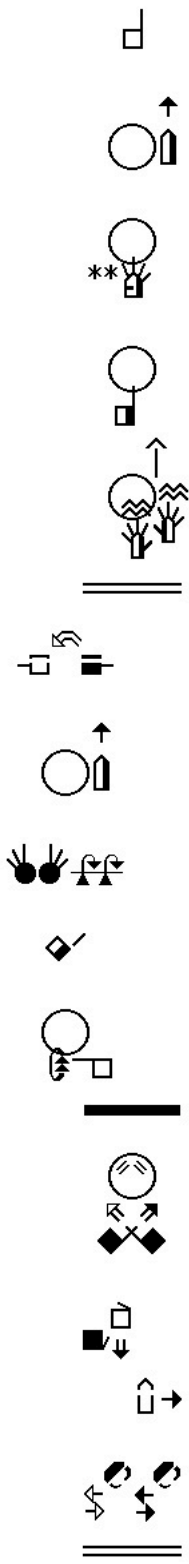
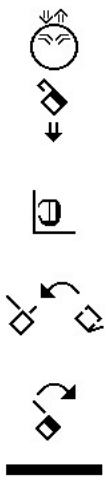
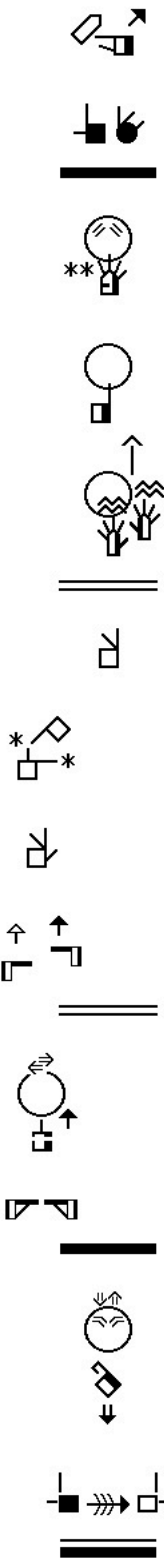
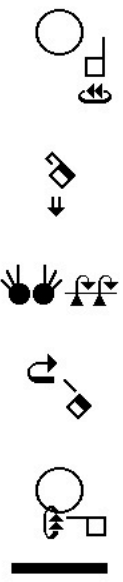
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Verse 25. As they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, "God is truly here among you." Verse 26. Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, NLT

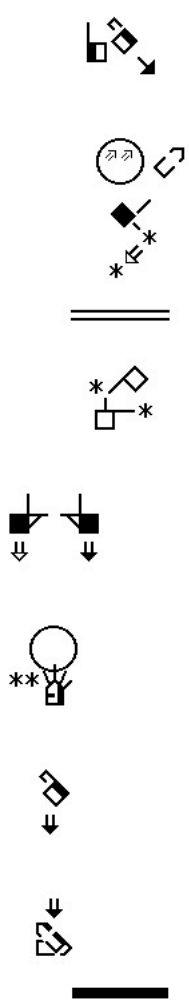
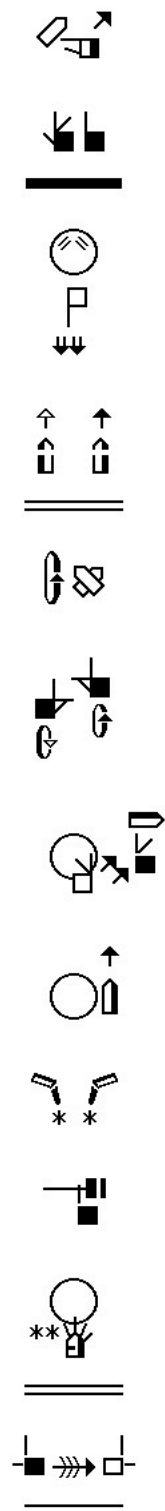
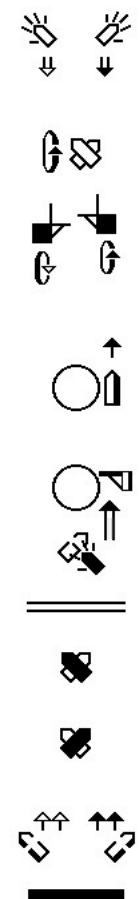
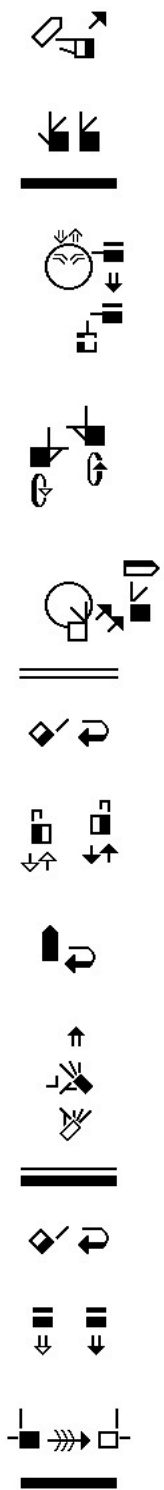
 <p>ASL signs for 1 Corinthians 14:1-11. The sequence includes signs for 'one', 'tongues', 'another', 'interpret', 'strengthen', 'all', 'you', 'two', 'three', 'speak', 'one', 'at', 'a', 'time', 'someone', 'must', 'interpret', 'what', 'they', 'say'.</p>	 <p>ASL signs for 1 Corinthians 14:12-13. The sequence includes signs for 'I', 'want', 'to', 'speak', 'in', 'tongues', 'as', 'much', 'as', 'I', 'can'.</p>	 <p>ASL signs for 1 Corinthians 14:14-15. The sequence includes signs for 'my', 'soul', 'will', 'be', 'saved', 'by', 'tongues', 'more', 'than', 'by', 'interpretation'.</p>	 <p>ASL signs for 1 Corinthians 14:16-17. The sequence includes signs for 'I', 'will', 'sing', 'and', 'make', 'songs', 'and', 'songs', 'spiritual', 'singing', 'to', 'the', 'Lord'.</p>
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one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you. Verse 27. No more than two or three should speak in tongues. They must speak one at a time, and someone must interpret what they say. NLT

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
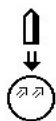

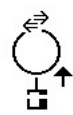
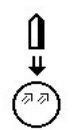










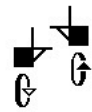























Verse 28. But if no one is present who can interpret, they must be silent in your church meeting and speak in tongues to God privately. Verse 29. Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said. Verse 30. But if someone is prophesying and another person receives a revelation

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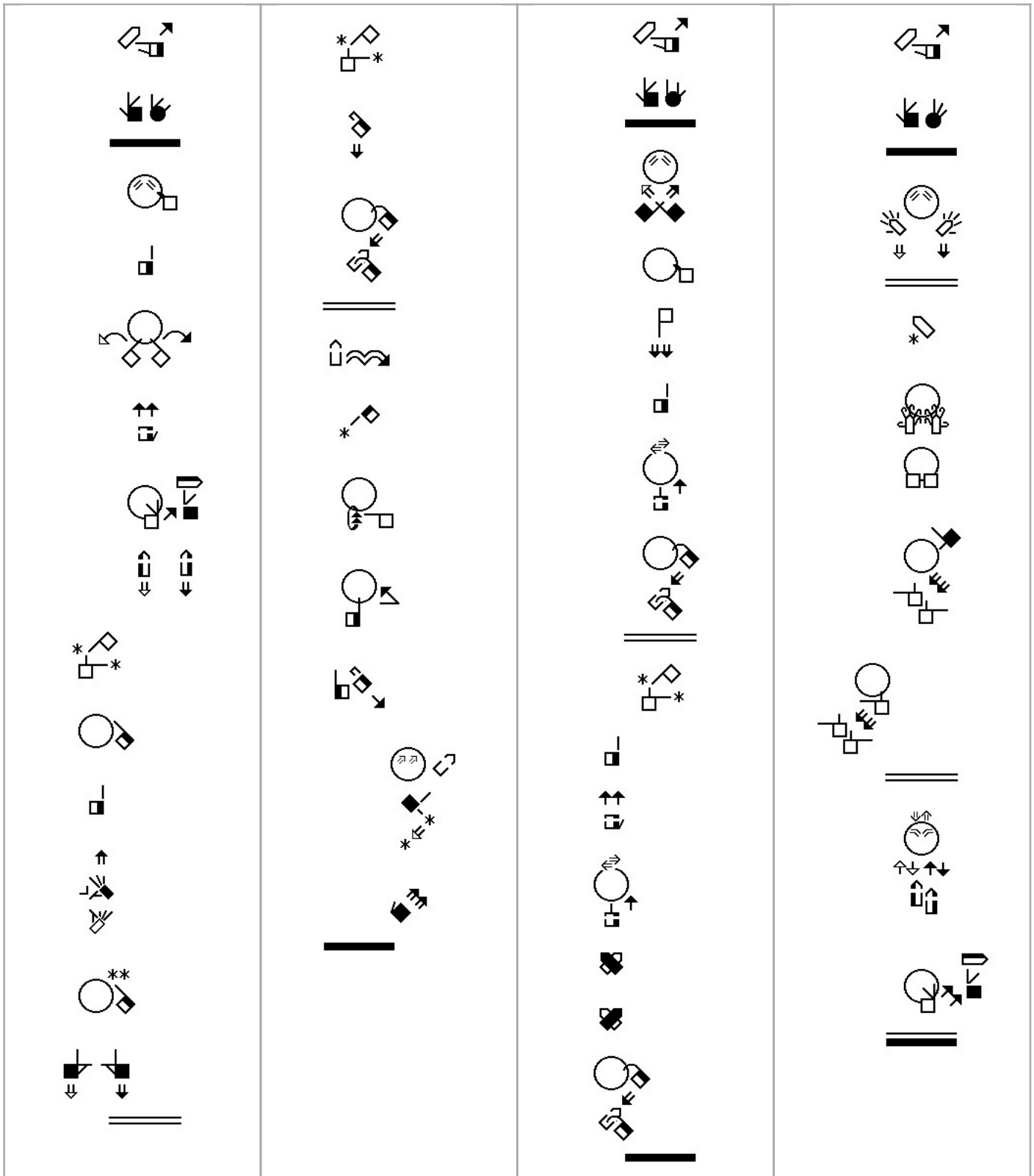
from the Lord, the one who is speaking must stop. Verse 31. In this way, all who prophesy will have a turn to speak, one after the other, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged. Verse 32. Remember that people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can take turns.

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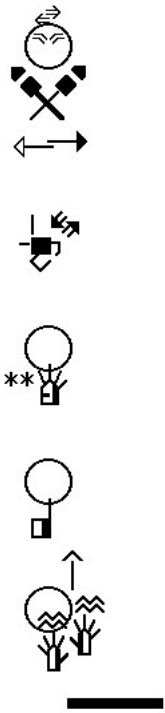
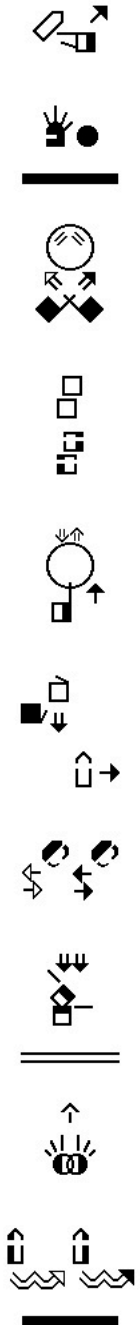
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Verse 33. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the meetings of God's holy people. Verse 34. Women should be silent during the church meetings. It is not proper for them to speak. They should be submissive, just as the law says. NLT

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Verse 37. If you claim to be a prophet or think you are spiritual, you should recognize that what I am saying is a command from the Lord himself. Verse 38. But if you do not recognize this, you yourself will not be recognized. Verse 39. So, my dear brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, NLT

 <p>A vertical sequence of ASL signs. From top to bottom: a face with a downward arrow, two crossed hands, a horizontal double-headed arrow, a hand with a downward arrow, a circle with two asterisks, a circle with a square, a circle with an upward arrow, a circle with wavy lines and two upward arrows, and a thick horizontal line.</p>	 <p>A vertical sequence of ASL signs. From top to bottom: a hand with a downward arrow, a hand with a downward arrow and a circle, a thick horizontal line, a face with a downward arrow, two crossed hands, two squares, a circle with a square and an upward arrow, a square with a downward arrow, a square with a downward arrow and a circle, two circles with downward arrows, a square with a downward arrow, a thick horizontal line, a circle with a downward arrow, and two squares with wavy lines and a downward arrow, followed by a thick horizontal line.</p>		
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and don't forbid speaking in tongues. Verse 40. But be sure that everything is done properly and in order.

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Chapter 15. Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. Verse 2. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you -- unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. NLT

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



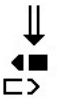


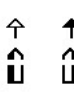









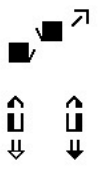




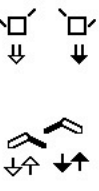

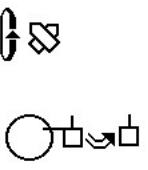







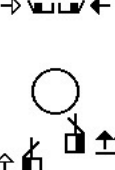



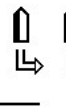




Verse 3. I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. Verse 4. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. Verse 5. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.

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Verse 6. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Verse 7. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Verse 8. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.

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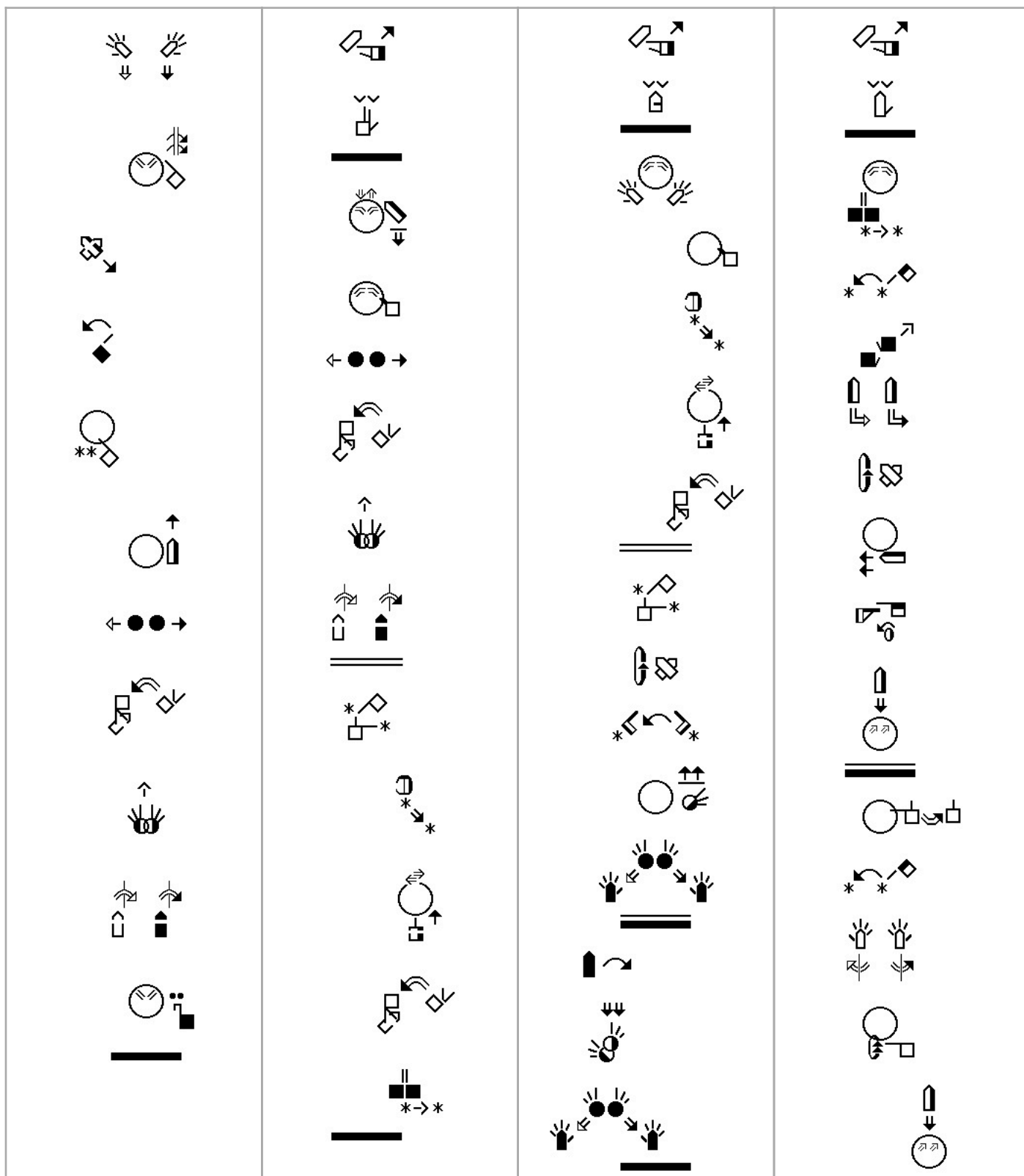
         	         	         	           
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Verse 9. For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church. Verse 10. But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me -- and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles;

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yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace. Verse 11. So it makes no difference whether I preach or they preach, for we all preach the same message you have already believed. Verse 12. But tell me this -- since we preach that Christ rose from the dead,

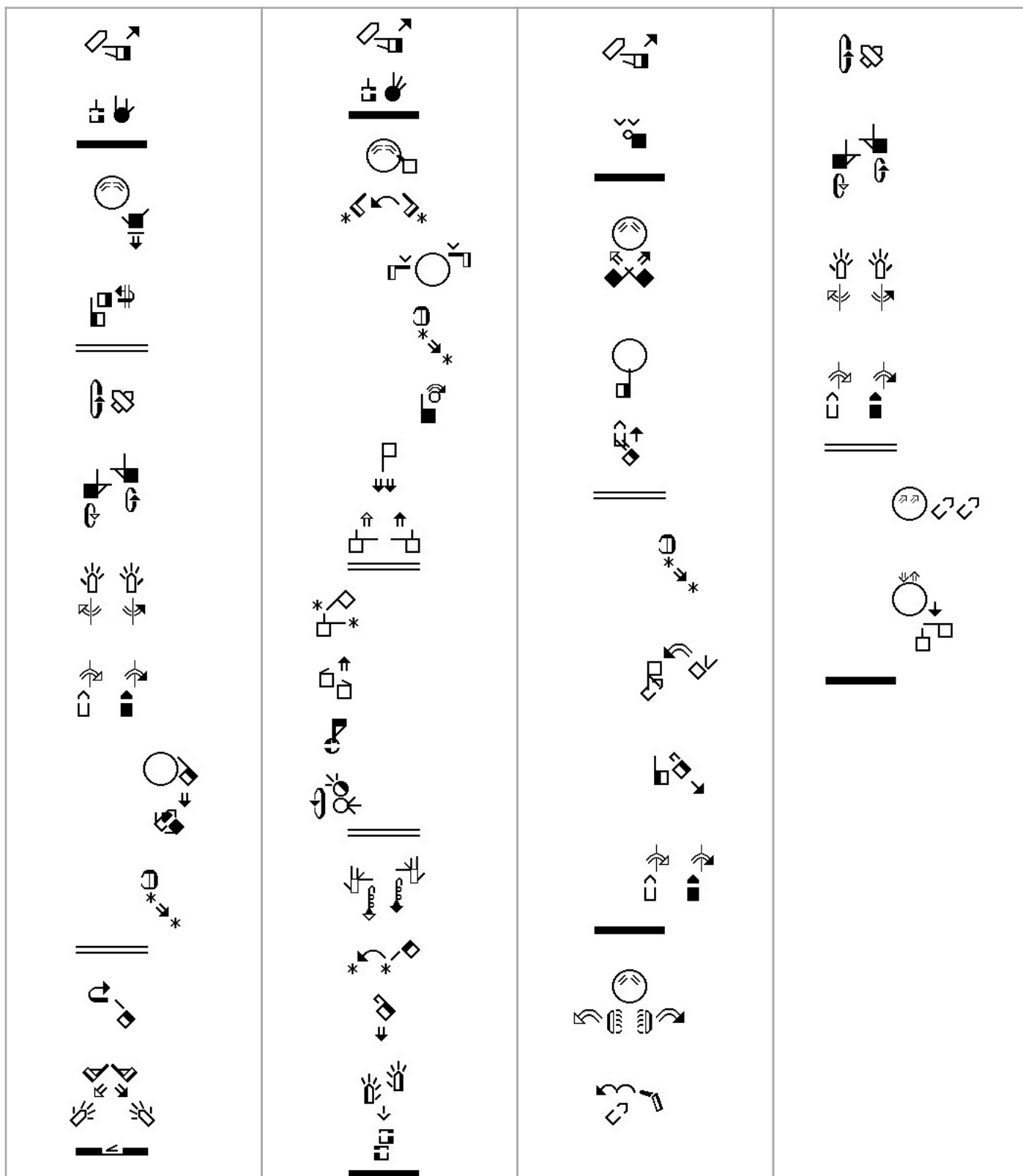
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why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? Verse 13. For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. Verse 14. And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. Verse 15. And we apostles would all be lying about God -- for we have said that God

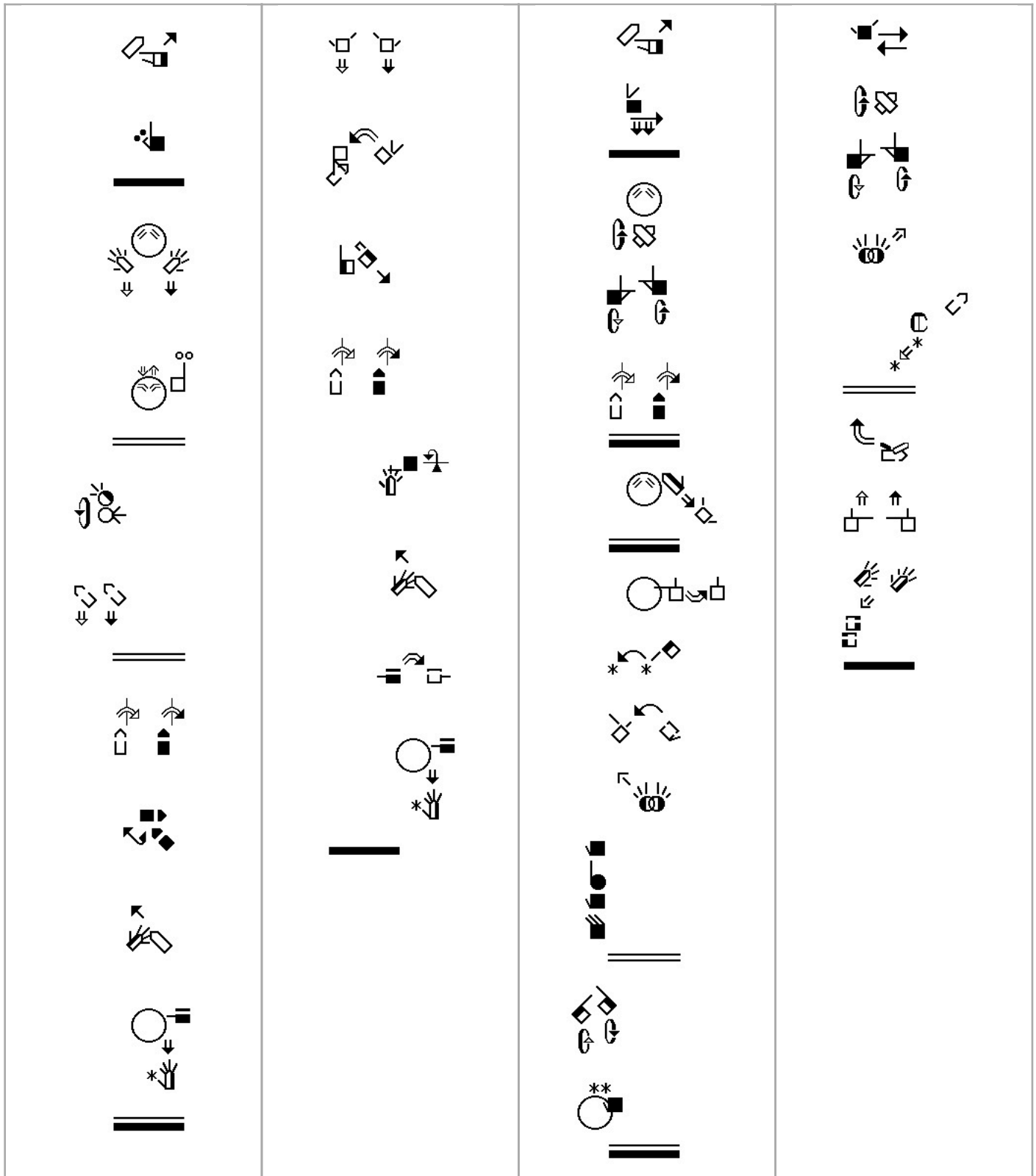
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raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead.
Verse 16. And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised.
Verse 17. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still
guilty of your sins. NLT



Verse 18. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! Verse 19. And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. Verse 20. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

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Verse 21. So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. Verse 22. Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.

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<p>ASL signs for Verse 23: Christ as the first of the harvest. The sequence includes signs for 'first', 'harvest', 'Christ', and 'resurrection'.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 24: All who belong to Christ will be raised. The sequence includes signs for 'all', 'belong to Christ', 'will be raised', and 'when he comes back'.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 25: After that the end will come. The sequence includes signs for 'after that', 'the end', 'will come', and 'when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father'.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 26: Having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. The sequence includes signs for 'having destroyed', 'every ruler and authority and power'.</p>
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




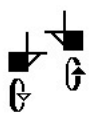
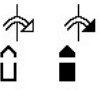


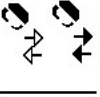

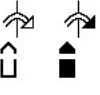






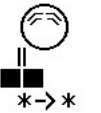





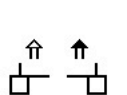







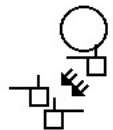







Verse 23. But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back. Verse 24. After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power.

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Verse 25. For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. Verse 26. And the last enemy to be destroyed is death. Verse 27. For the Scriptures say, "God has put all things under his authority." (Of course, when it says "all things are under his authority,"

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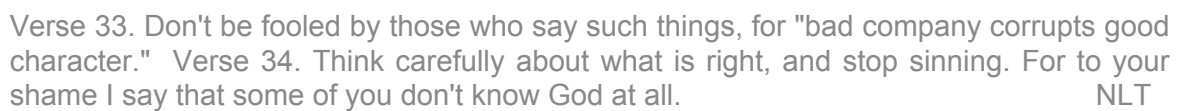
           	          	           	           
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Verse 29. If the dead will not be raised, what point is there in people being baptized for those who are dead? Why do it unless the dead will someday rise again? Verse 30. And why should we ourselves risk our lives hour by hour? Verse 31. For I swear, dear brothers and sisters, that I face death daily. This

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is as certain as my pride in what Christ Jesus our Lord has done in you. Verse 32. And what value was there in fighting wild beasts -- those people of Ephesus -- if there will be no resurrection from the dead? And if there is no resurrection, "Let's feast and drink, for tomorrow we die!"
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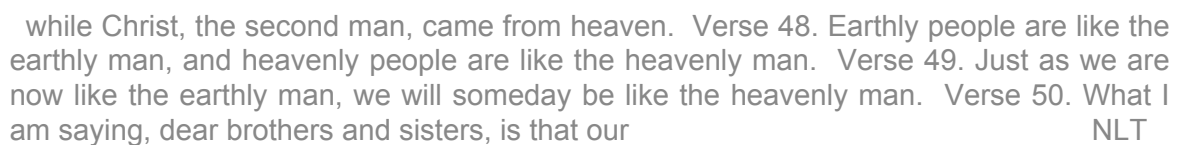
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are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Verse 43. Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. Verse 44. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies. NLT

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Verse 45. The Scriptures tell us, "The first man, Adam, became a living person." But the last Adam -- that is, Christ -- is a life-giving Spirit. Verse 46. What comes first is the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later. Verse 47. Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth,

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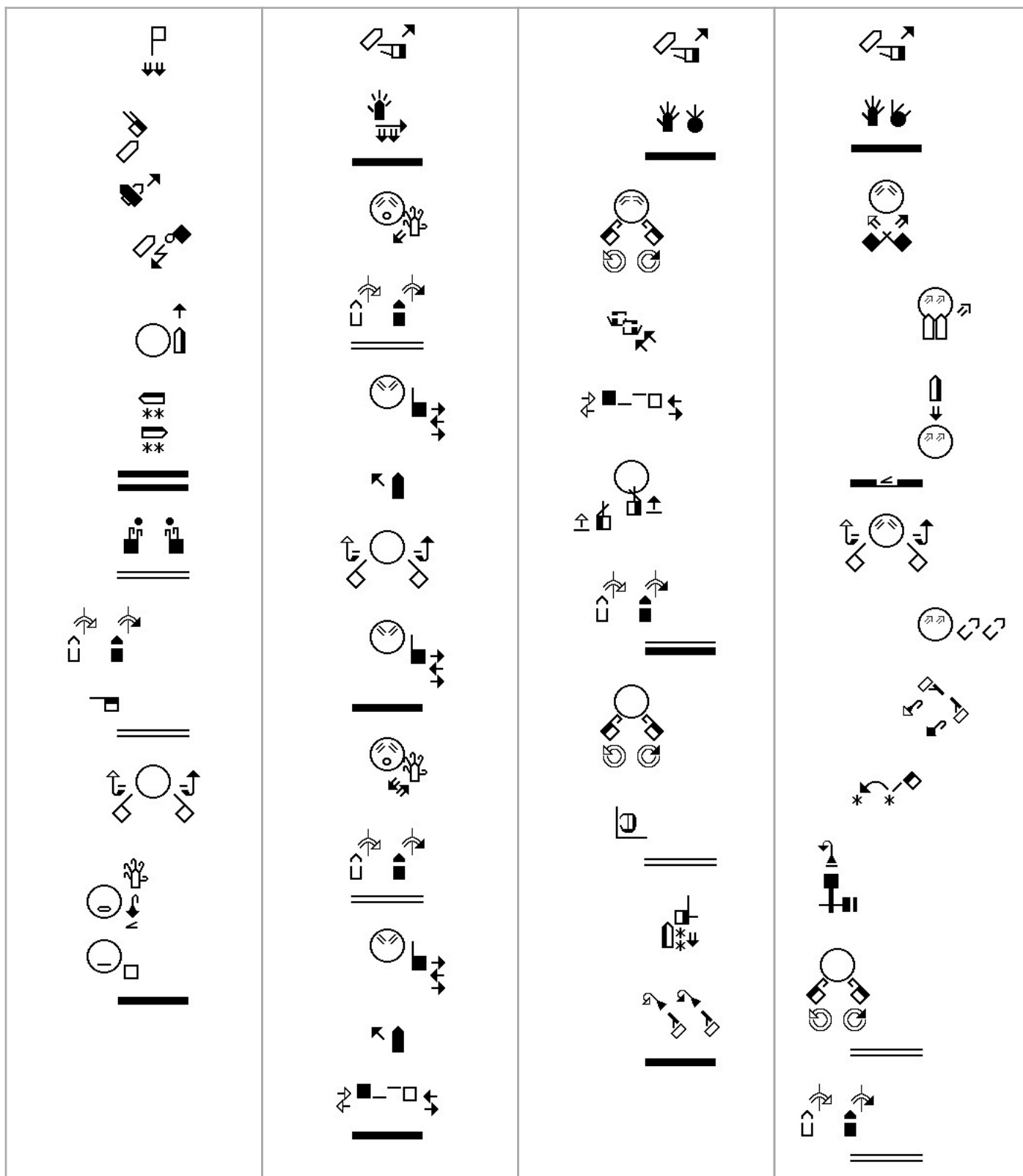
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physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. Verse 51. But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! Verse 52. It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds,

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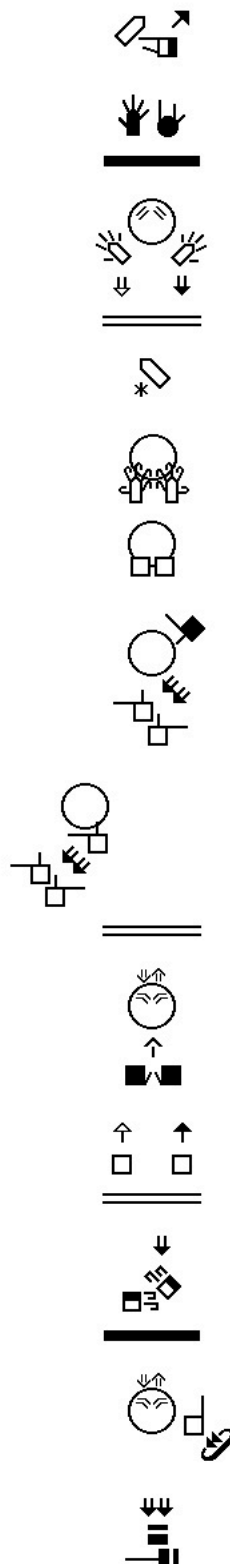
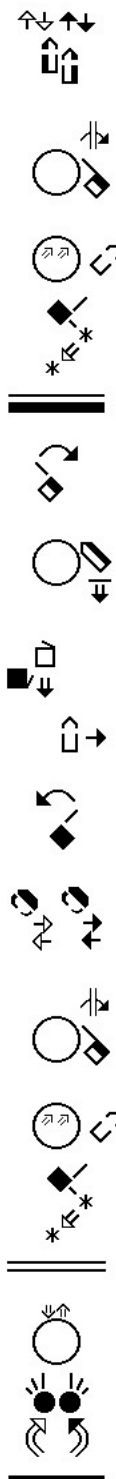
those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. Verse 53. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. Verse 54. Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die,

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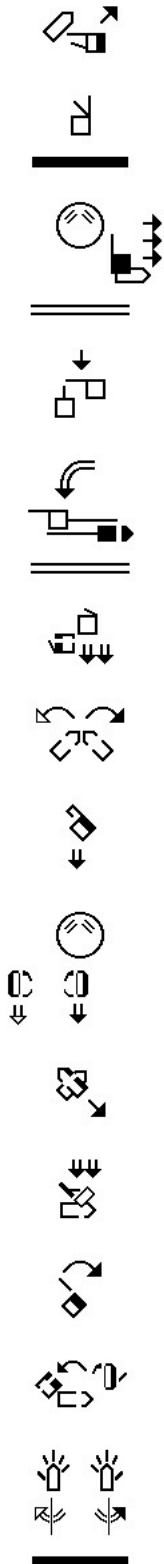
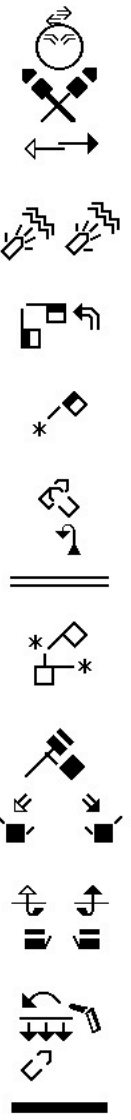


this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Verse 55. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" Verse 56. For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. Verse 57. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death

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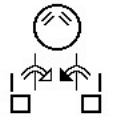


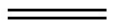














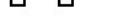
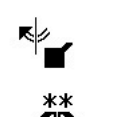


















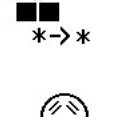


















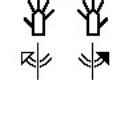



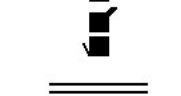



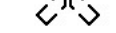







			
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203 through our Lord Jesus Christ. Verse 58. So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. NLT

			
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Chapter 16. Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God's people in Jerusalem. You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia. Verse 2. On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.

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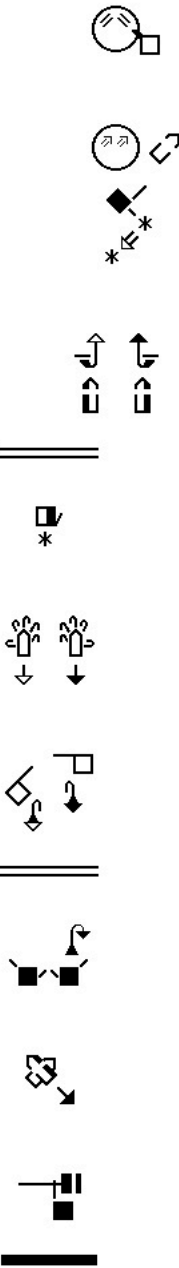

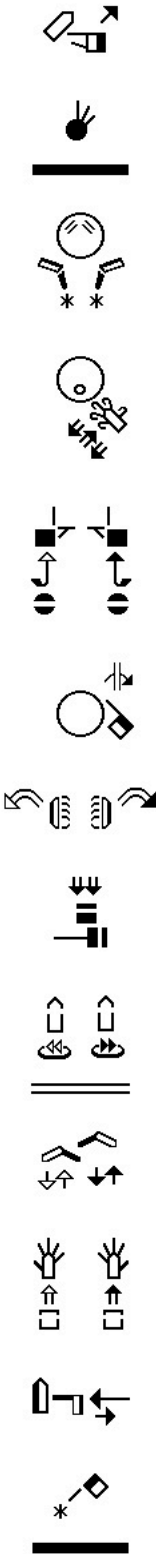

                   	                   	                   	                  
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Verse 3. When I come, I will write letters of recommendation for the messengers you choose to deliver your gift to Jerusalem. Verse 4. And if it seems appropriate for me to go along, they can travel with me. Verse 5. I am coming to visit you after I have been to Macedonia,

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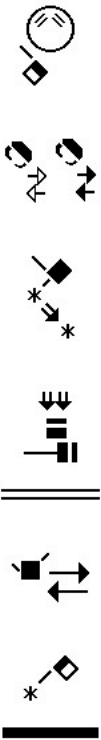


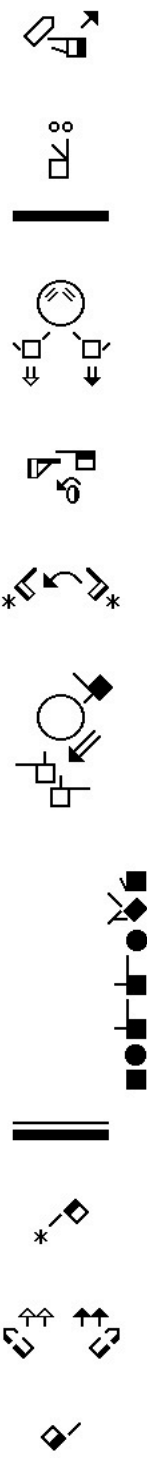
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for I am planning to travel through Macedonia. Verse 6. Perhaps I will stay awhile with you, possibly all winter, and then you can send me on my way to my next destination. Verse 7. This time I don't want to make just a short visit and then go right on. NLT

			
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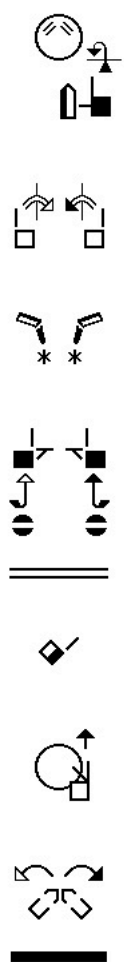
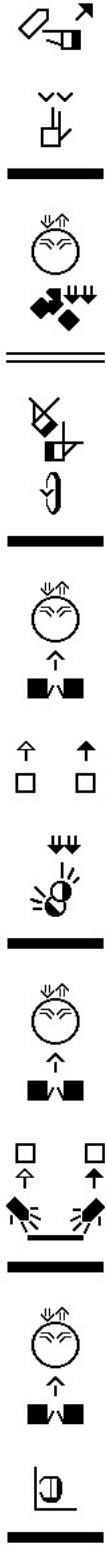
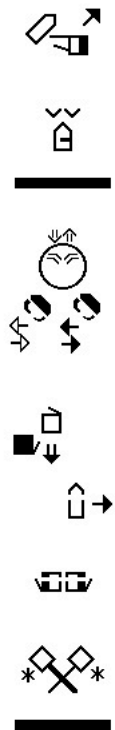
I want to come and stay awhile, if the Lord will let me. Verse 8. In the meantime, I will be staying here at Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost. Verse 9. There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me. Verse 10. When Timothy comes, don't intimidate him.





















































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He is doing the Lord's work, just as I am. Verse 11. Don't let anyone treat him with contempt. Send him on his way with your blessing when he returns to me. I expect him to come with the other believers. Verse 12. Now about our brother Apollos -- I urged him

NLT

 <p>ASL signs for 1 Corinthians 16:1-12. The sequence includes signs for 'I', 'you', 'the', 'other', 'believers', 'but', 'he', 'was', 'not', 'willing', 'to', 'go', 'right', 'now', 'He', 'will', 'see', 'you', 'later', 'when', 'he', 'has', 'the', 'opportunity', 'Verse 13: Be', 'on', 'guard', 'Stand', 'firm', 'in', 'the', 'faith', 'Be', 'courageous', 'Be', 'strong', 'Verse 14: And', 'do', 'everything', 'with', 'love'.</p>	 <p>ASL signs for 1 Corinthians 16:13-14. The sequence includes signs for 'Be', 'on', 'guard', 'Stand', 'firm', 'in', 'the', 'faith', 'Be', 'courageous', 'Be', 'strong'.</p>	 <p>ASL signs for 1 Corinthians 16:15-16. The sequence includes signs for 'And', 'do', 'everything', 'with', 'love'.</p>	 <p>ASL signs for 1 Corinthians 16:17-18. The sequence includes signs for 'I', 'you', 'the', 'other', 'believers', 'but', 'he', 'was', 'not', 'willing', 'to', 'go', 'right', 'now', 'He', 'will', 'see', 'you', 'later', 'when', 'he', 'has', 'the', 'opportunity', 'Verse 13: Be', 'on', 'guard', 'Stand', 'firm', 'in', 'the', 'faith', 'Be', 'courageous', 'Be', 'strong', 'Verse 14: And', 'do', 'everything', 'with', 'love'.</p>
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Verse 15. You know that Stephanas and his household were the first of the harvest of believers in Greece, and they are spending their lives in service to God's people. I urge you, dear brothers and sisters, Verse 16. to submit to them and others like them who serve with such devotion.

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Verse 17. I am very glad that Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus have come here. They have been providing the help you weren't here to give me. Verse 18. They have been a wonderful encouragement to me, as they have been to you. You must show your appreciation to all who serve so well.

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
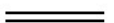



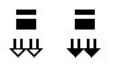



Verse 19. The churches here in the province of Asia send greetings in the Lord, as do Aquila and Priscilla and all the others who gather in their home for church meetings. Verse 20. All the brothers and sisters here send greetings to you. Greet each other with Christian love. Verse 21. HERE IS MY GREETING IN MY OWN HANDWRITING -- PAUL.

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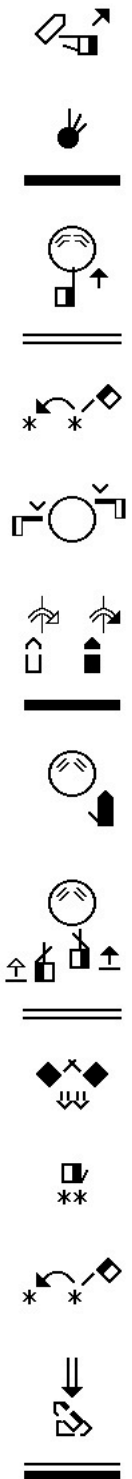
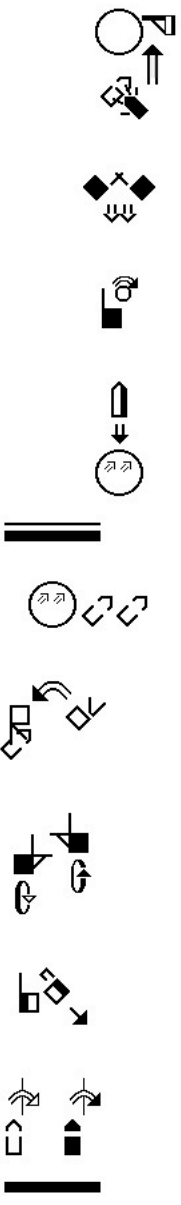
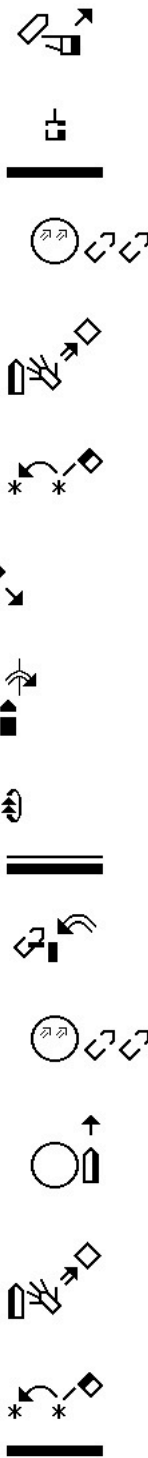
<p>ASL signs for Verse 2: May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 3: All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 2: May God our Father and the Lord 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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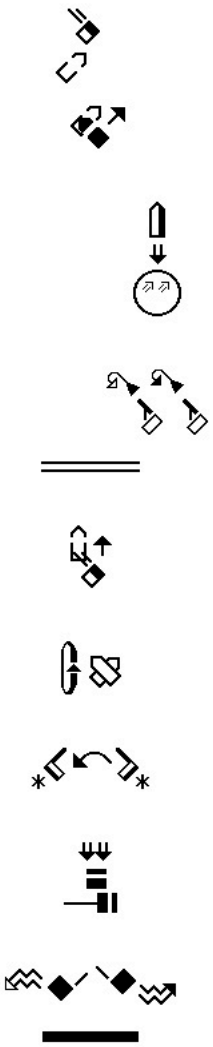
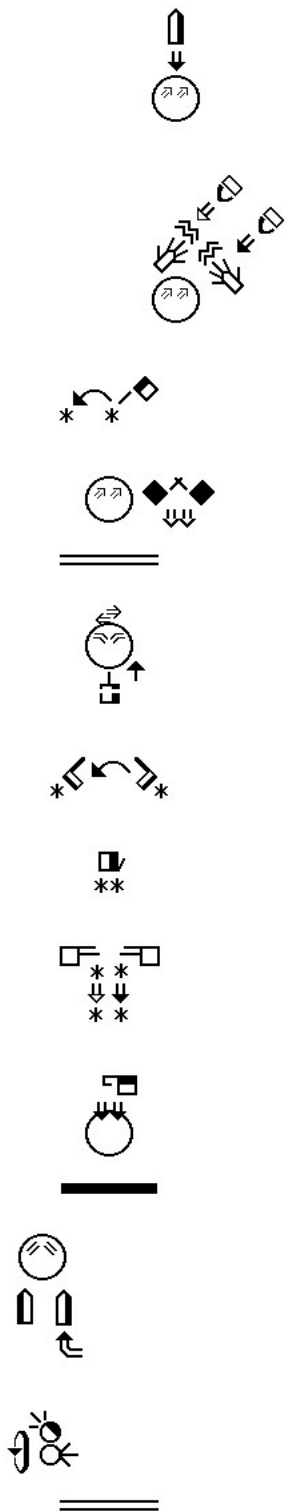
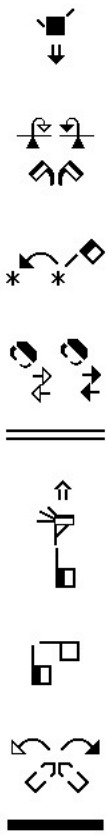
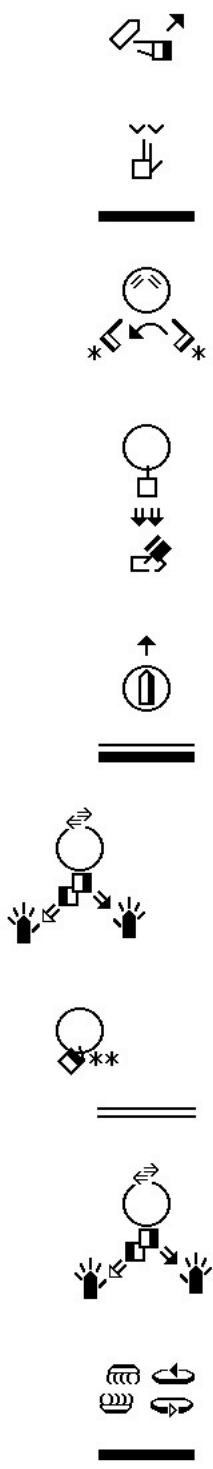
God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. Verse 6. Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer.

         	       	               	            
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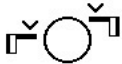













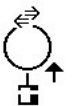



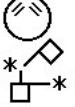

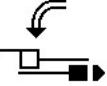









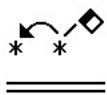
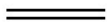


















Verse 7. We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the comfort God gives us. Verse 8. We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure,

			
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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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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

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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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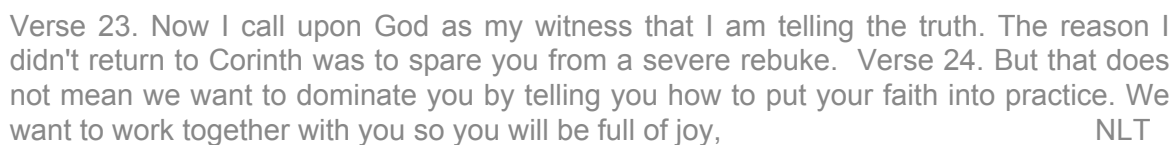
and as God's ultimate "Yes," he always does what he says. Verse 20. For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

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











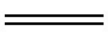

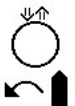










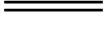






















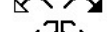










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Verse 21. It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, Verse 22. and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as as the first installment that guarantees everything he has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

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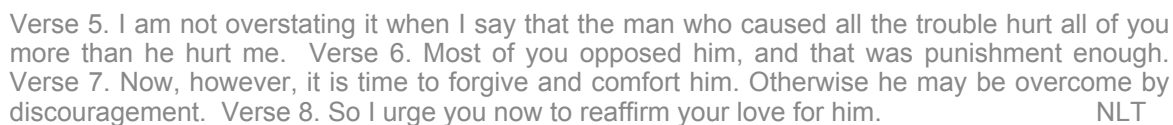























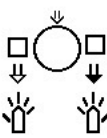



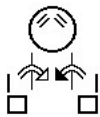

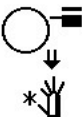


















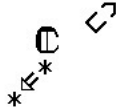





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I won't be grieved by the very ones who ought to give me the greatest joy. Surely you all know that my joy comes from your being joyful. Verse 4. I wrote that letter in great anguish, with a troubled heart and many tears. I didn't want to grieve you,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

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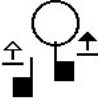



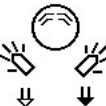






























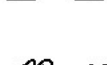


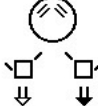




Verse 9. I wrote to you as I did to test you and see if you would fully comply with my instructions. Verse 10. When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit,

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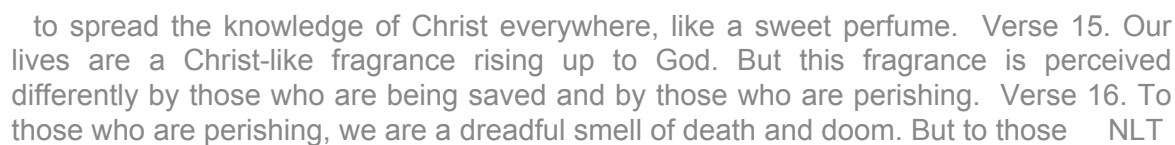
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Verse 11. so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.
 Verse 12. When I came to the city of Troas to preach the Good News of Christ, the Lord
 opened a door of opportunity for me. Verse 13. But I had no peace of mind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



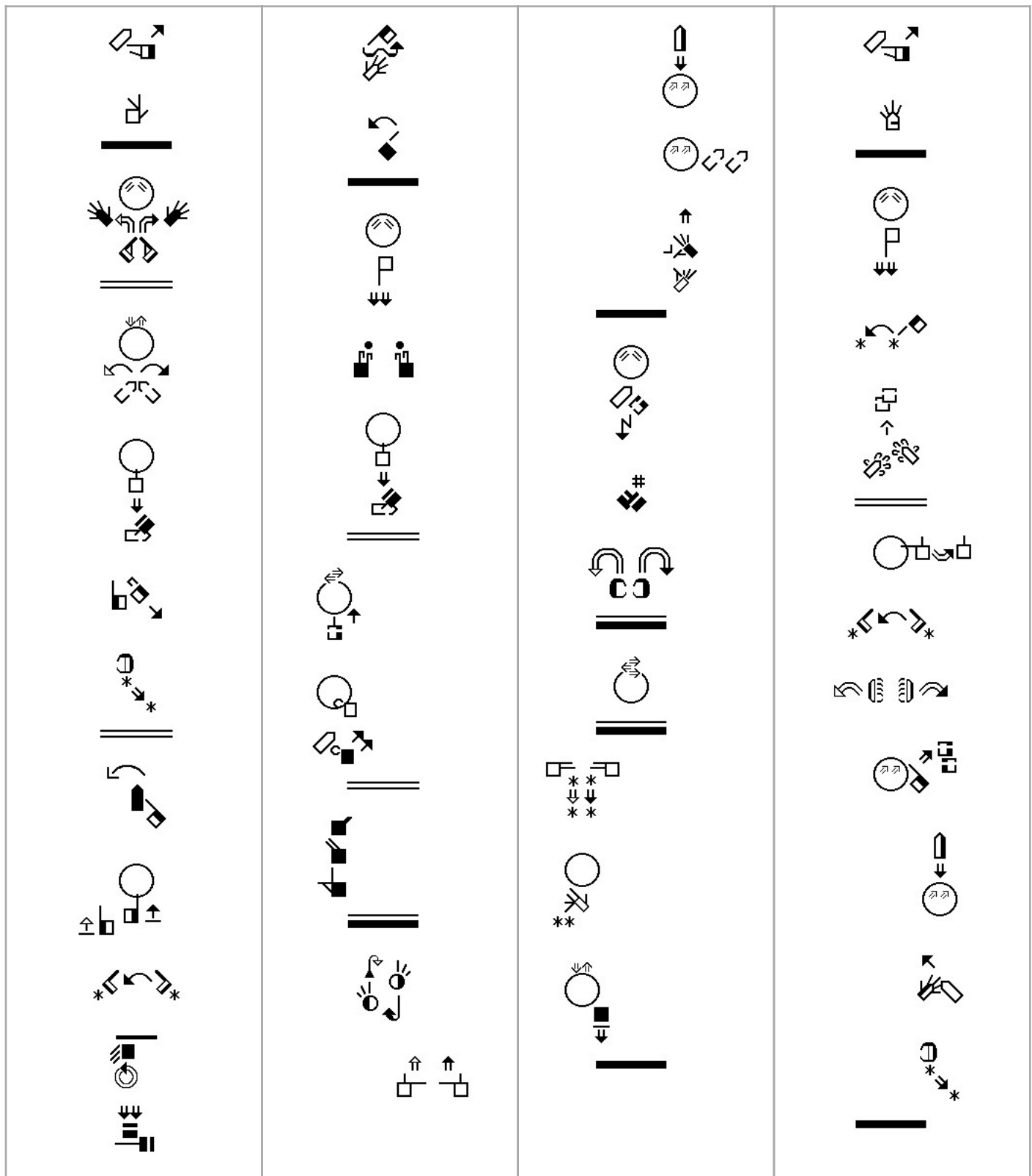
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who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume. And who is adequate for such a task as this? Verse 17. You see, we are not like the many hucksters who preach for personal profit. We preach the word of God with sincerity and with Christ's authority,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

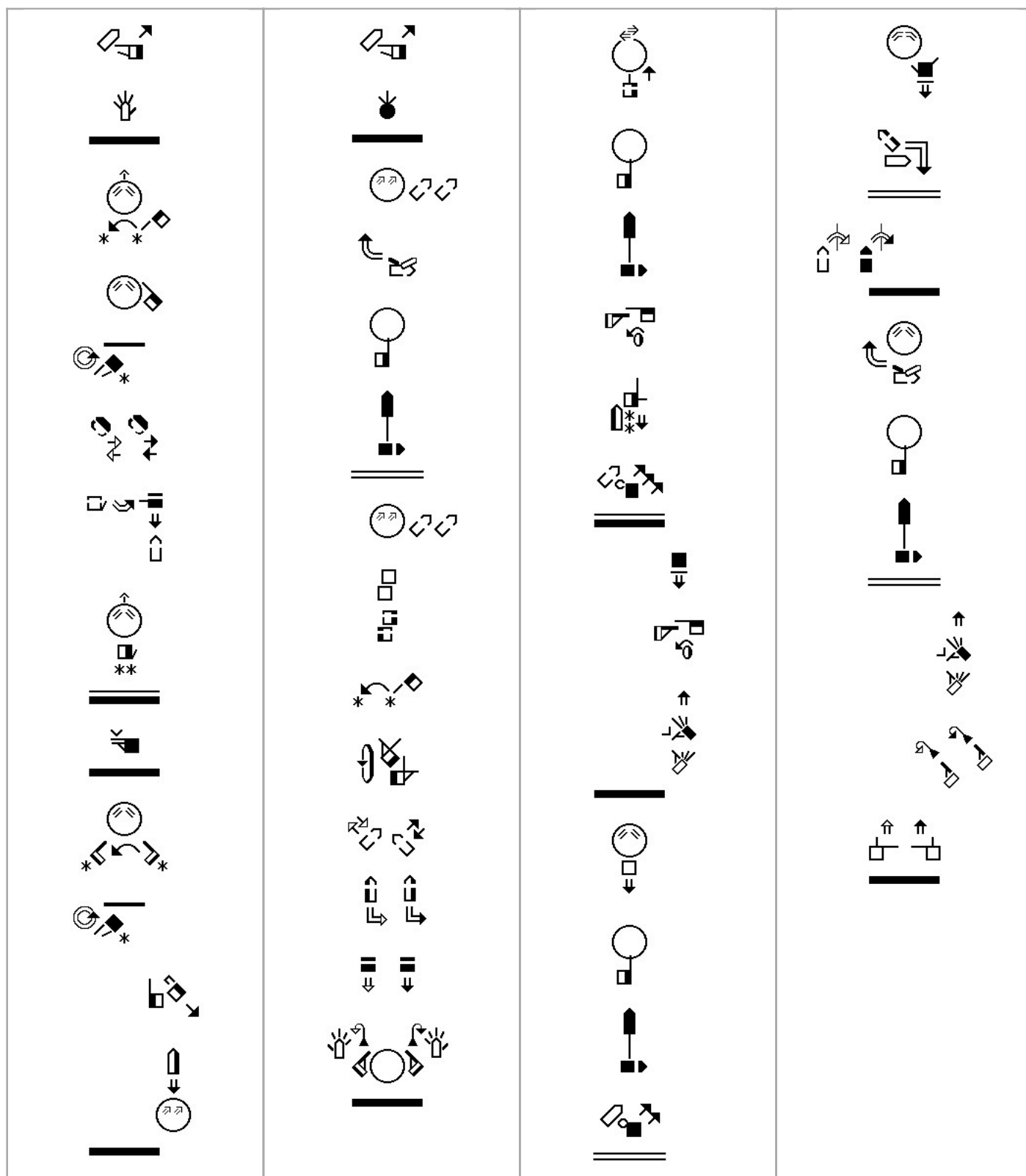
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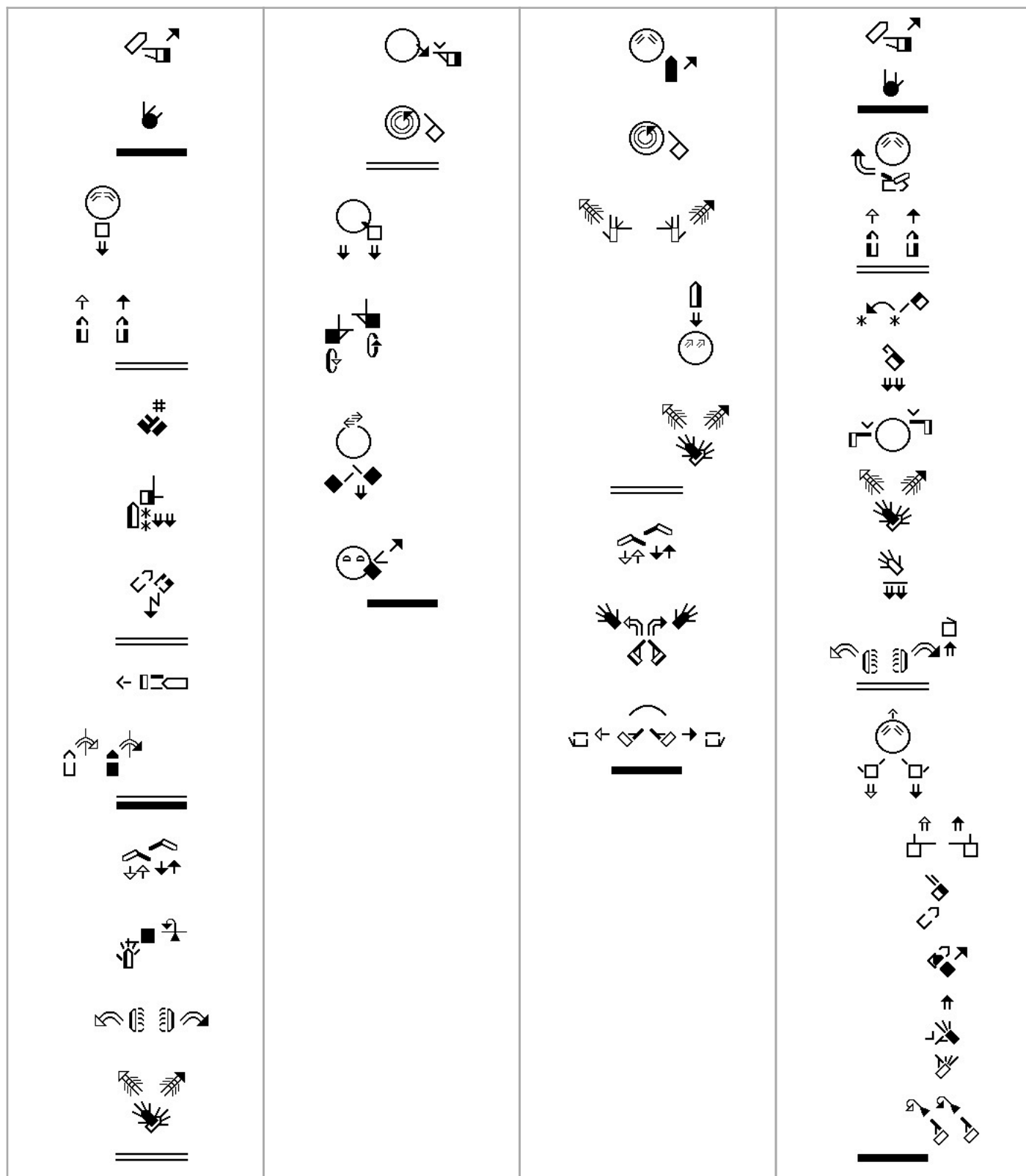
Chapter 3. Are we beginning to praise ourselves again? Are we like others, who need to bring you letters of recommendation, or who ask you to write such letters on their behalf? Surely not! Verse 2. The only letter of recommendation we need is you yourselves. Your lives are a letter written in our hearts: everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you. NLT



Verse 3. Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This "letter" is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts. Verse 4. We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. NLT

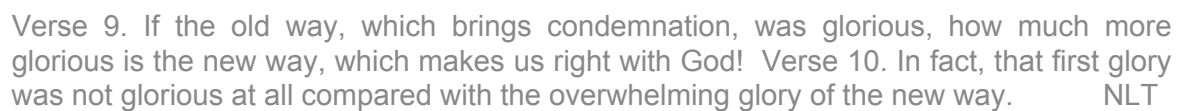


Verse 5. It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. Verse 6. He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant,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

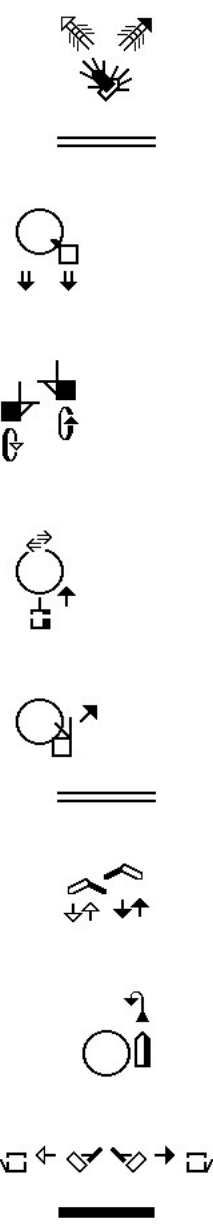
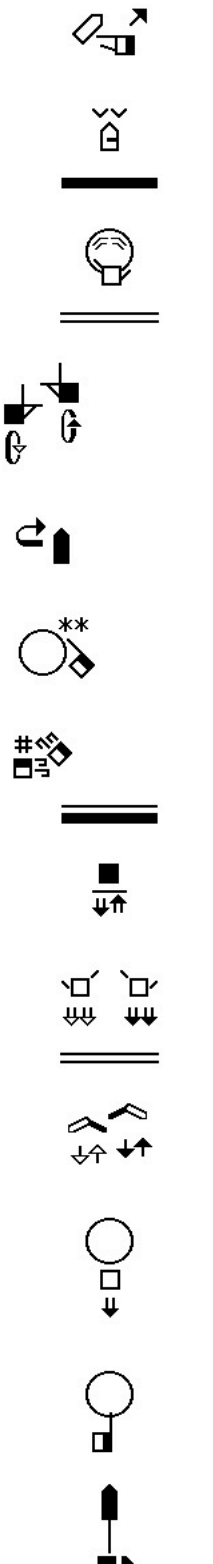

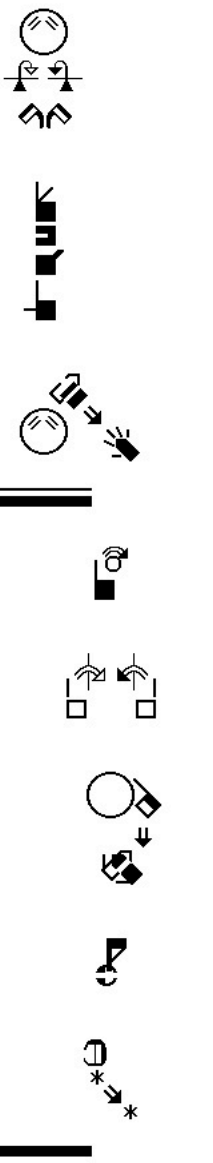


Verse 7. The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of God, even though the brightness was already fading away. Verse 8. Shouldn't we expect far greater glory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

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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

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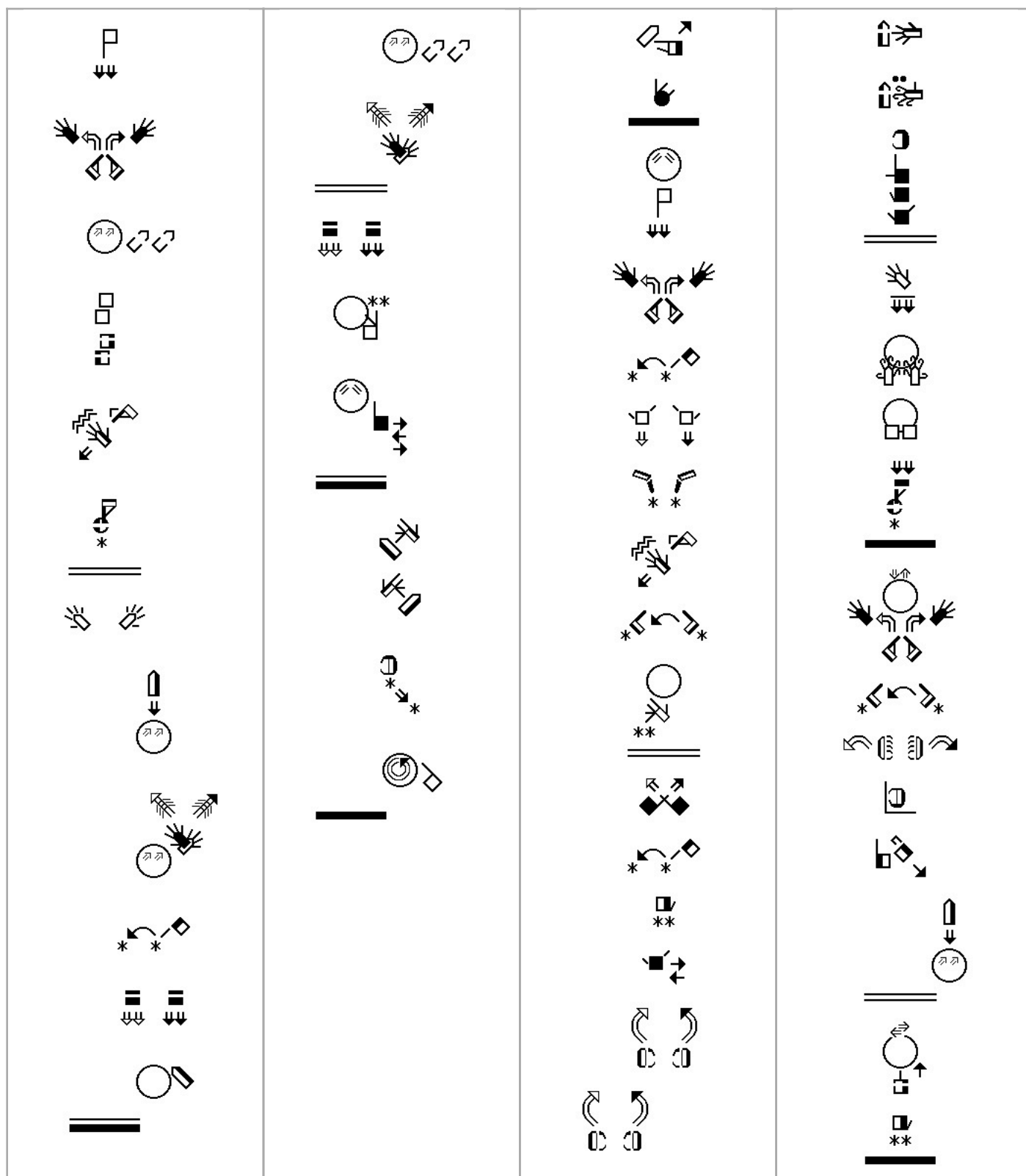
Chapter 4. Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way, we never give up. Verse 2. We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this.

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.

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












































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,"



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 10. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. Verse 11. Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies.

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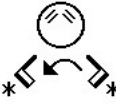



















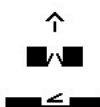










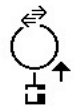


Verse 12. So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you.
 Verse 13. But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke." Verse 14. We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will

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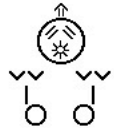

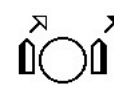


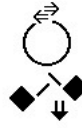

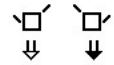












also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. Verse 15. All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. Verse 16. That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying,

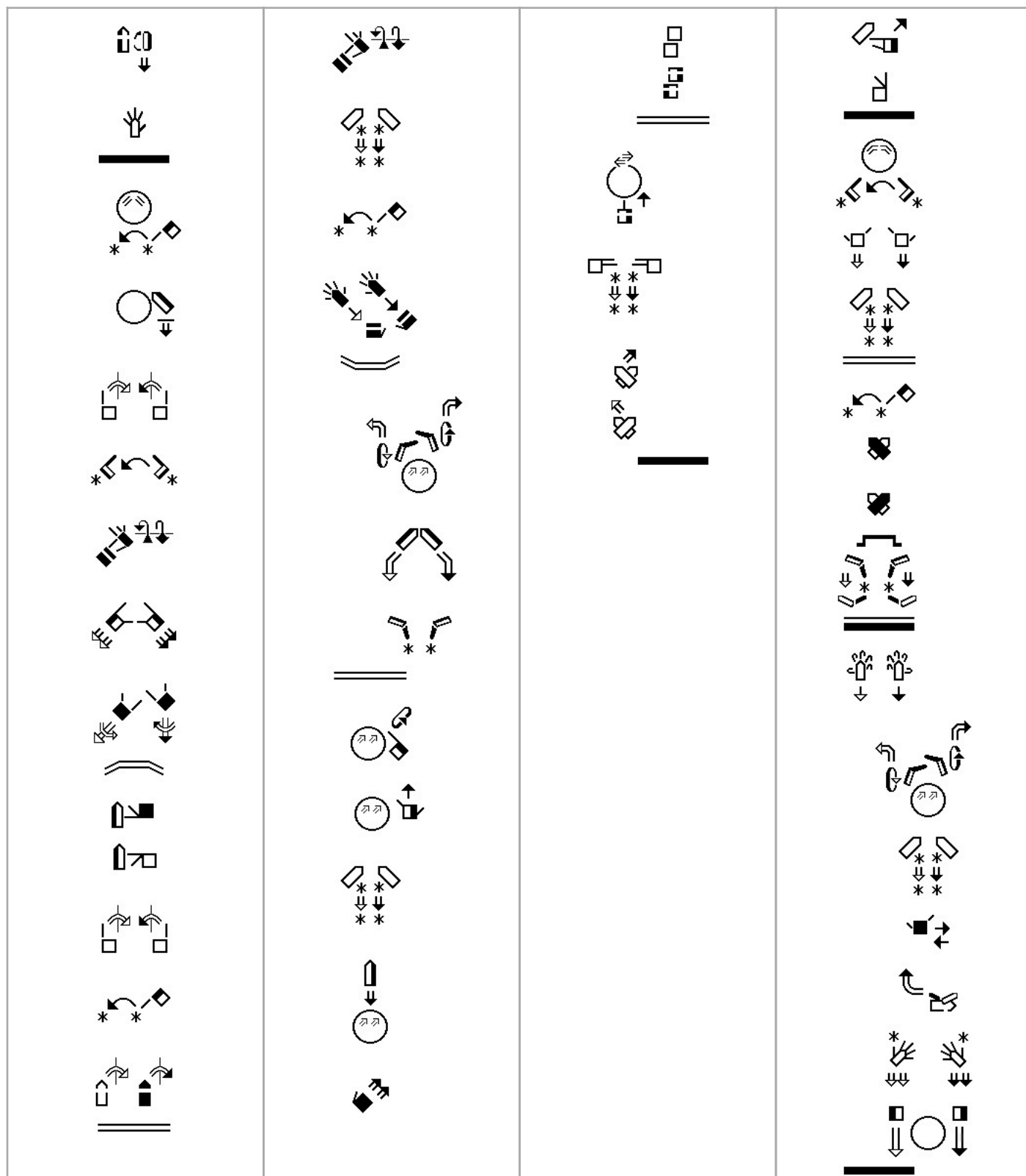
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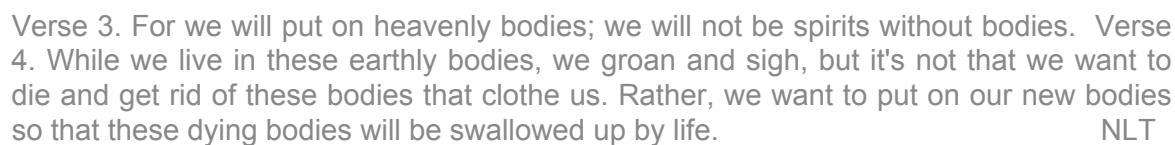
our spirits are being renewed every day. Verse 17. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! Verse 18. So we don't look at the troubles we can see now;

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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



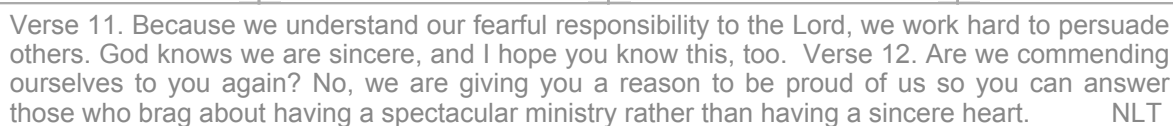
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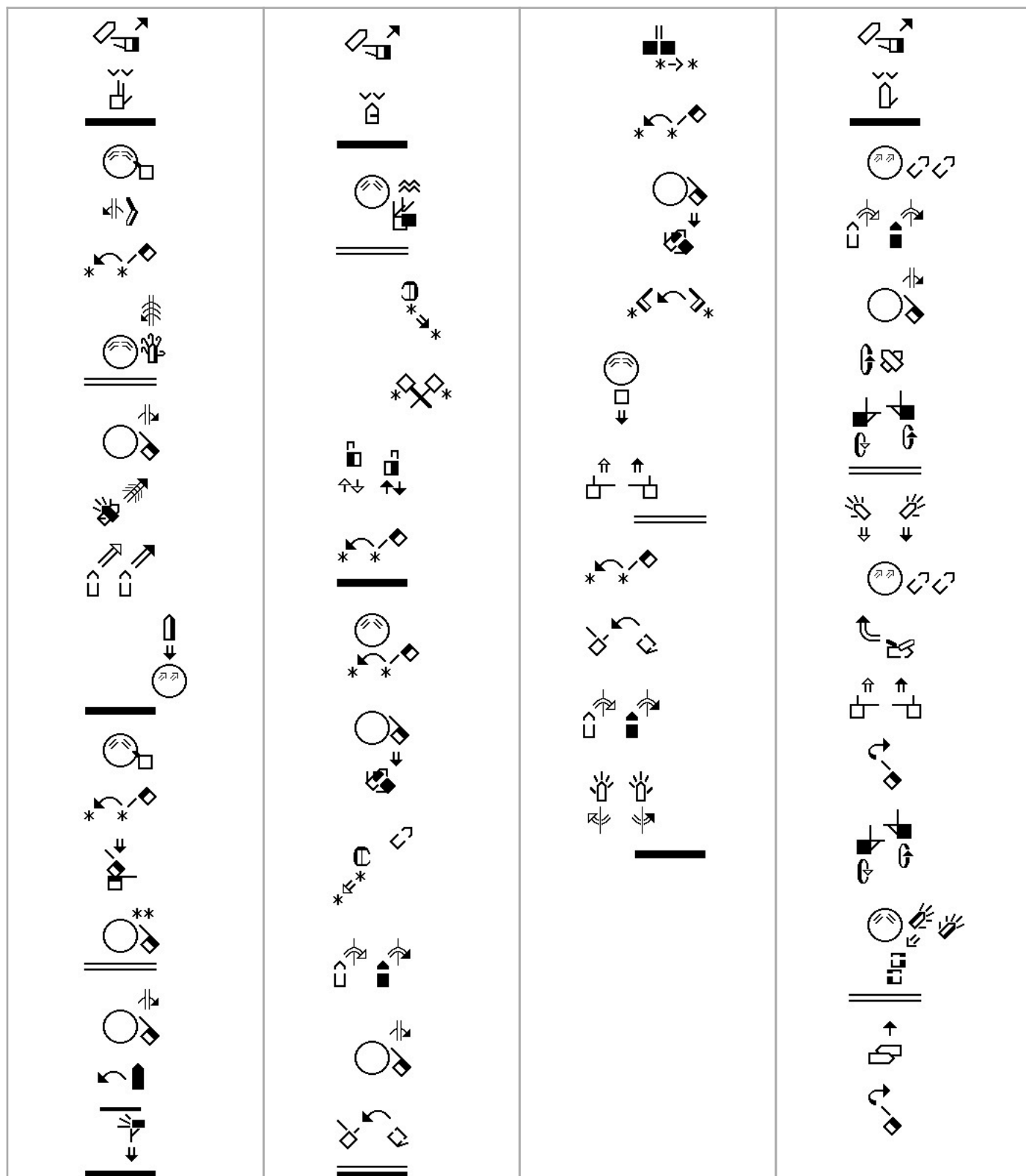
Verse 7. For we live by believing and not by seeing. Verse 8. Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. Verse 9. So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, NLT

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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.

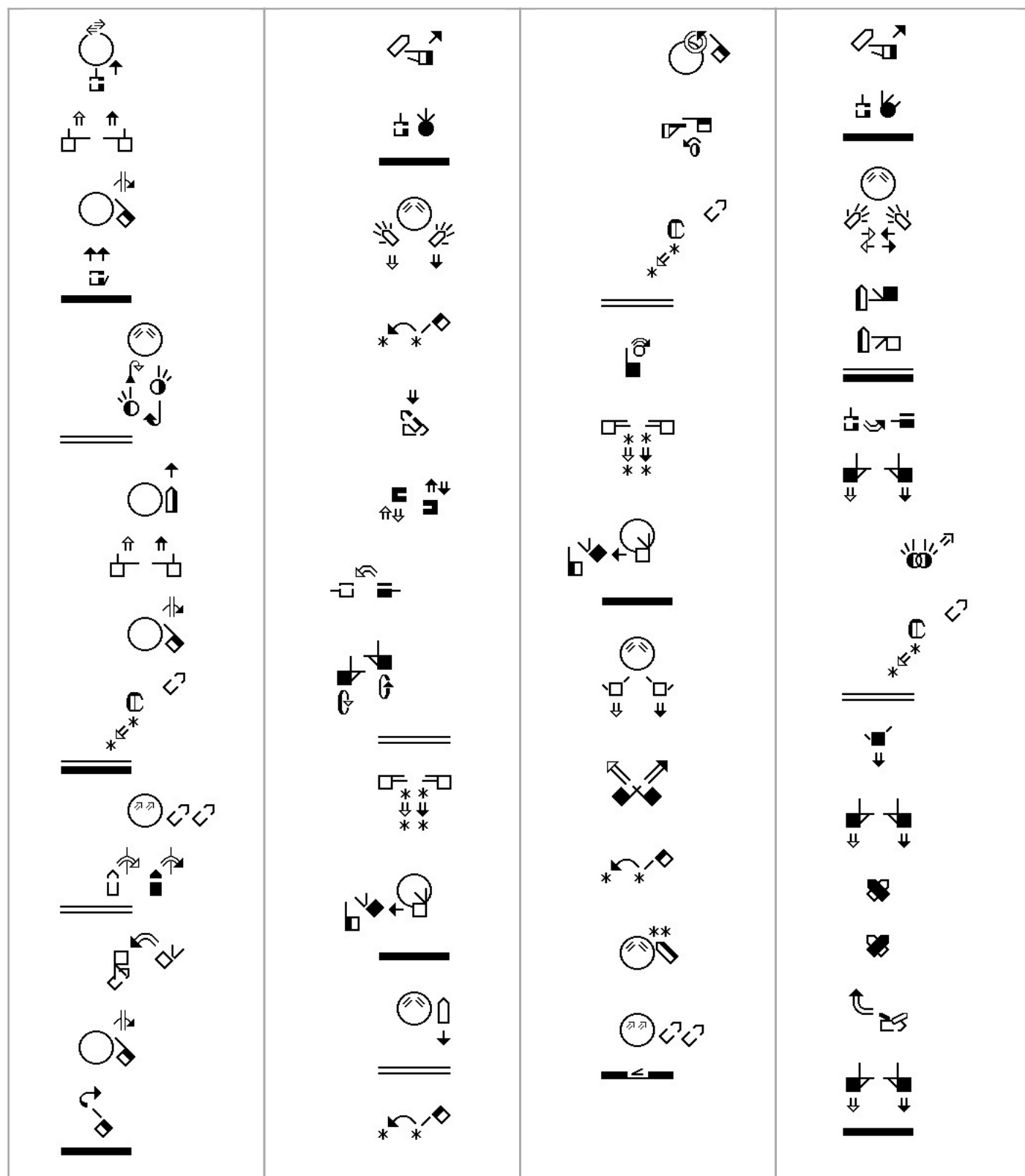
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Verse 13. If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit. Verse 14. Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all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

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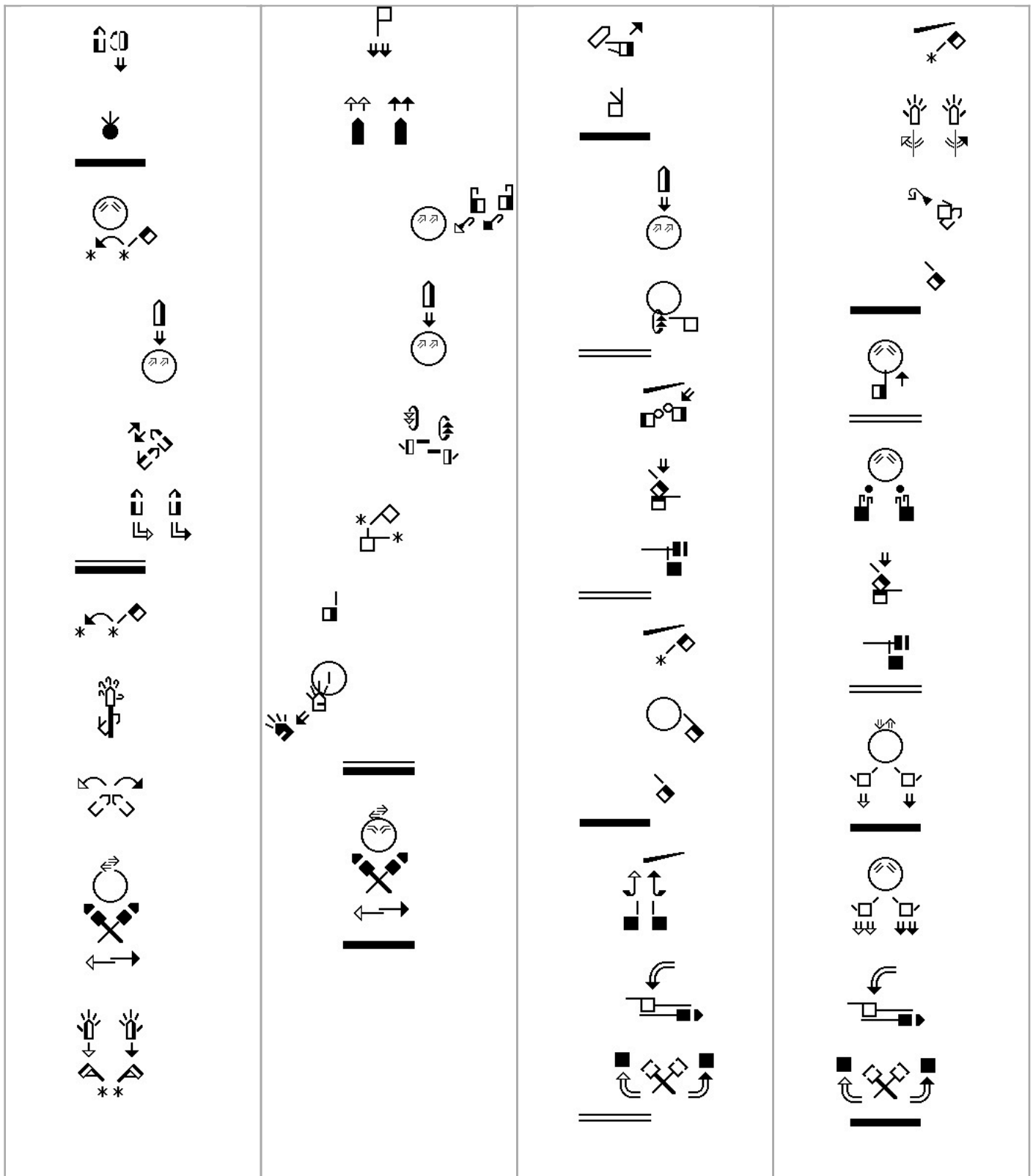
will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. Verse 16. So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! Verse 17. This means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

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




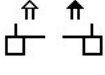






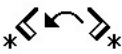


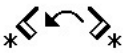


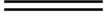















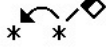


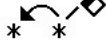








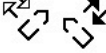






































sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. Verse 20. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" Verse 21. For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering

NLT



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.

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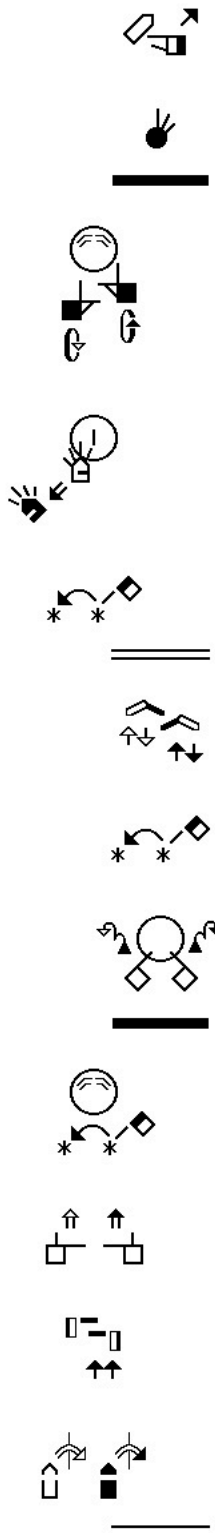
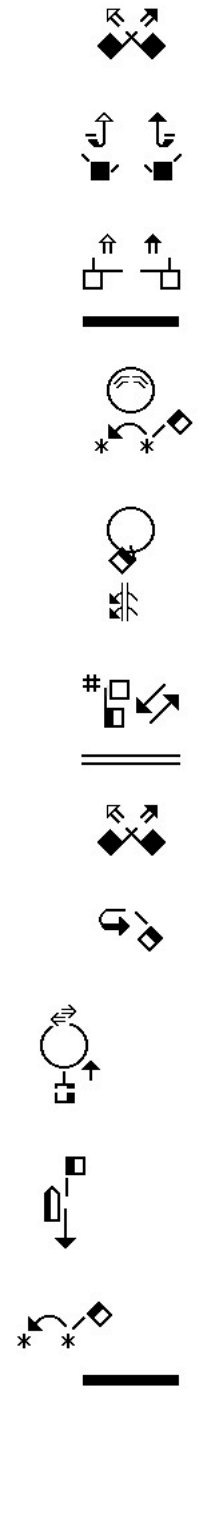
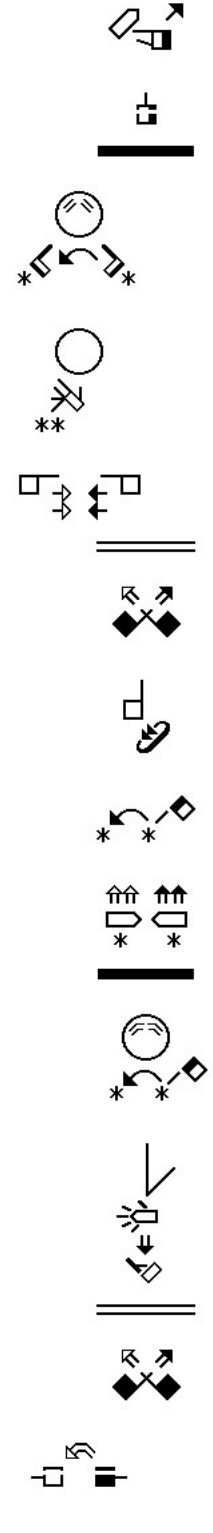
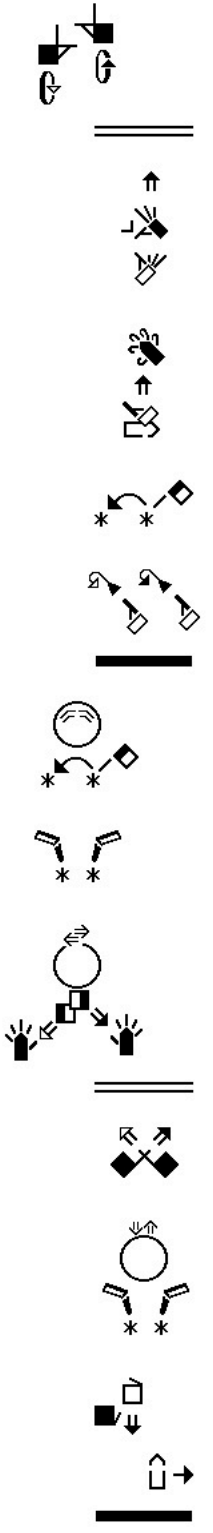
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Verse 5. We have been beaten, been put in prison, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, endured sleepless nights, and gone without food. Verse 6. We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit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

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




















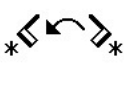








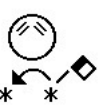

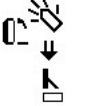













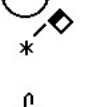
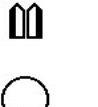










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Verse 7. We faithfully preach the truth. God's power is working in us. We use the weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defense. Verse 8. We serve God whether people honor us or despise us, whether they slander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

			
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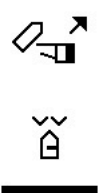
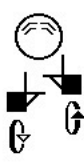







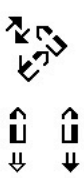
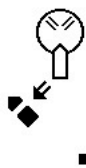


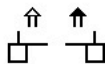


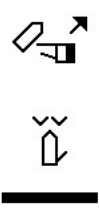



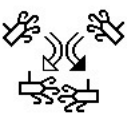

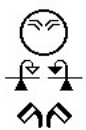
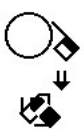

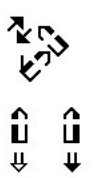

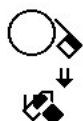
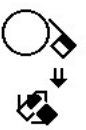

Verse 9. We are ignored, even though we are well known. We live close to death, but we are still alive. We have been beaten, but we have not been killed. Verse 10. Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything.

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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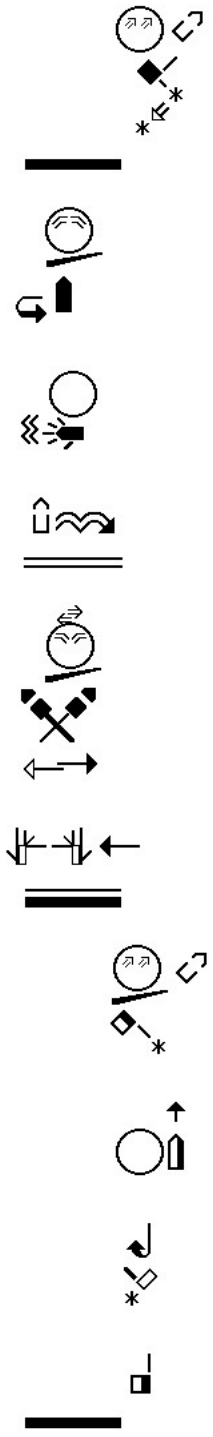
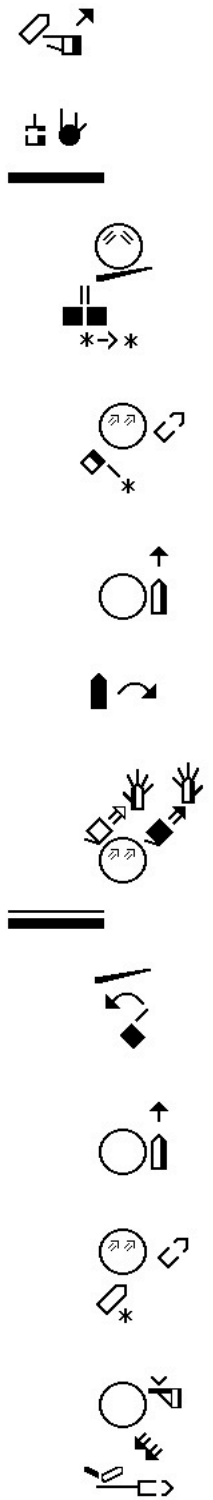
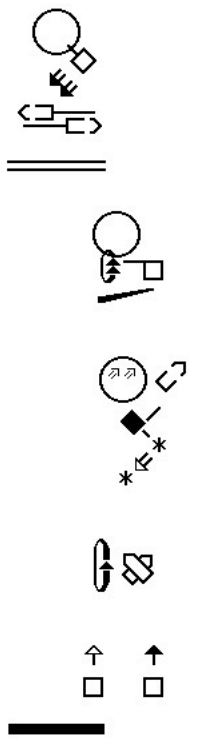
        	      	        	    
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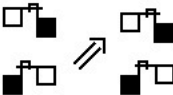



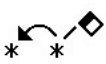
























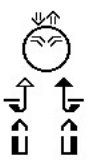


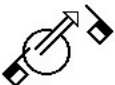



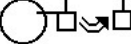

























Verse 14. Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? Verse 15. What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever?

NLT

<p>ASL signs for Verse 16: Temple, idols, union, living God, separation.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 16: Temple, idols, union, living God, separation.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 16: Temple, idols, union, living God, separation.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 16: Temple, idols, union, living God, separation.</p>
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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

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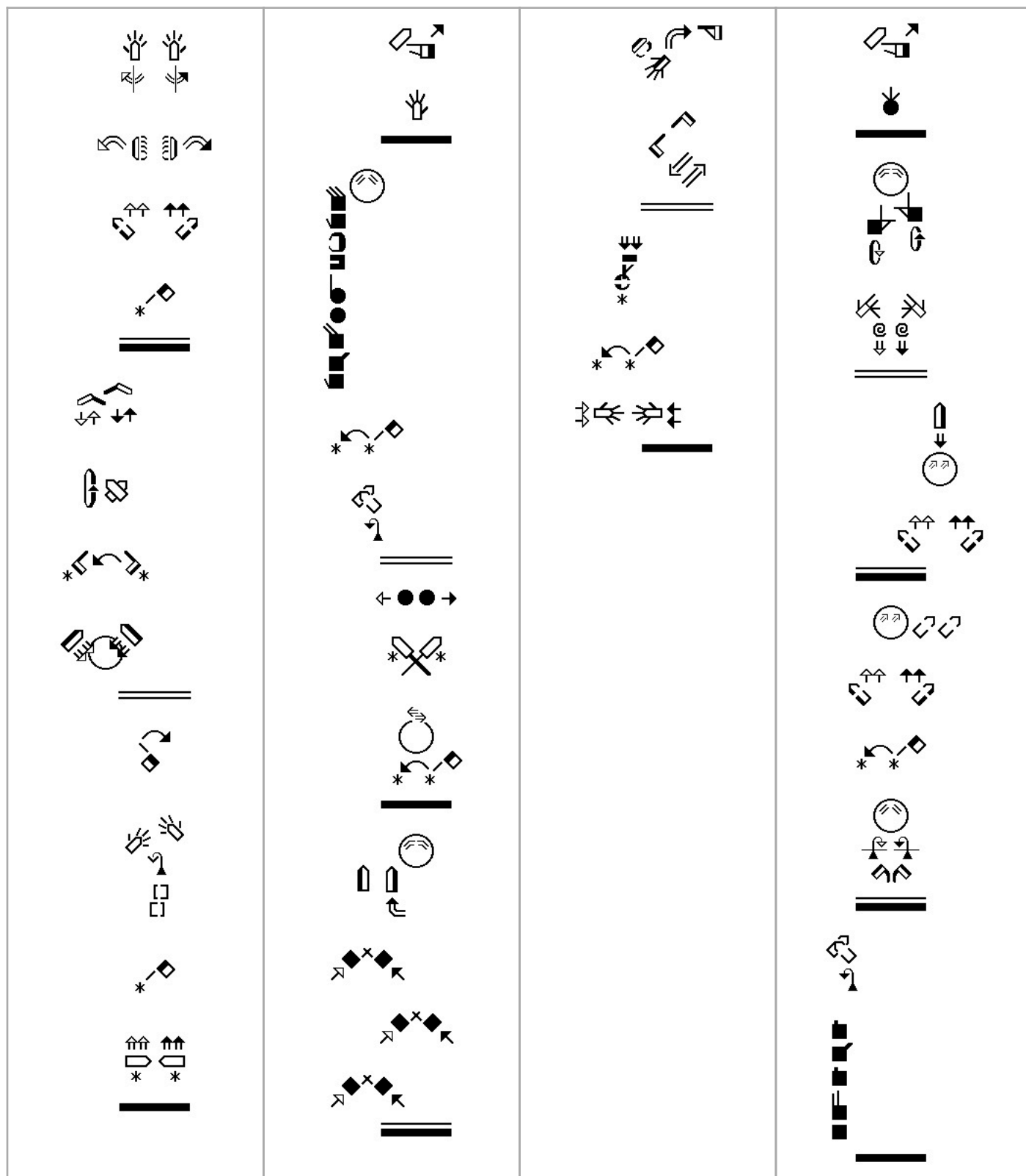
                  	              	             	                  
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Chapter 7. Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God. Verse 2. Please open your hearts to us. We have not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












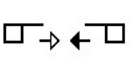

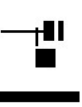


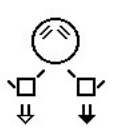




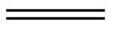
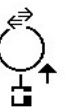





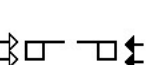







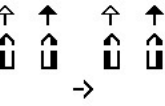




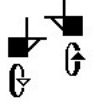







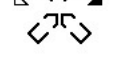


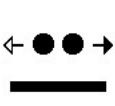


have greatly encouraged me and made me happy despite all our troubles. Verse 5. When we arrived in Macedonia, there was no rest for us. We faced conflict from every direction, with battles on the outside and fear on the inside. Verse 6. But God, who encourages those who are discouraged, encouraged us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

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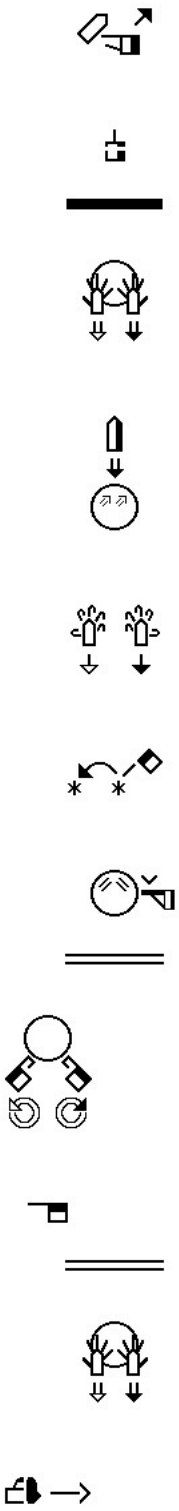
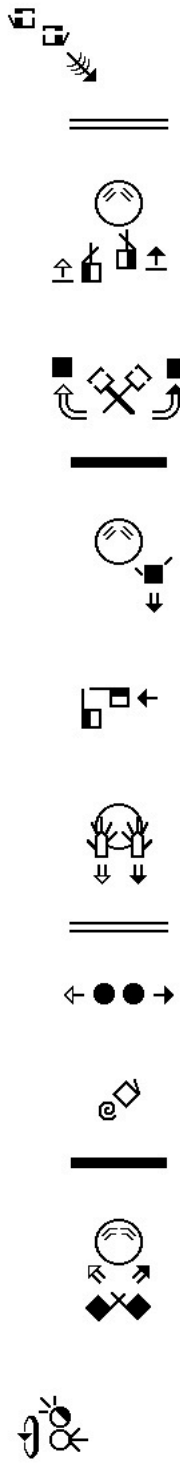
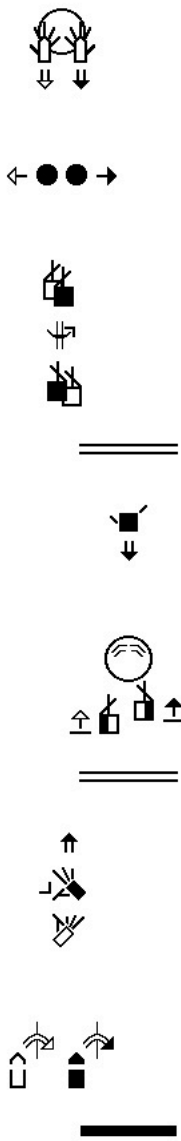
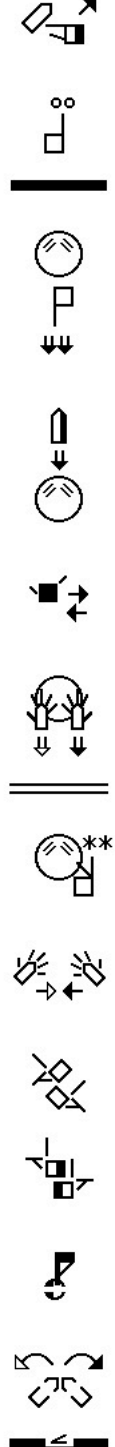
Verse 7. His presence was a joy, but so was the news he brought of the encouragement he received from you. When he told us how much you long to see me, and how sorry you are for what happened, and how loyal you are to me, I was filled with joy! Verse 8. I am not sorry that I sent that severe letter to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

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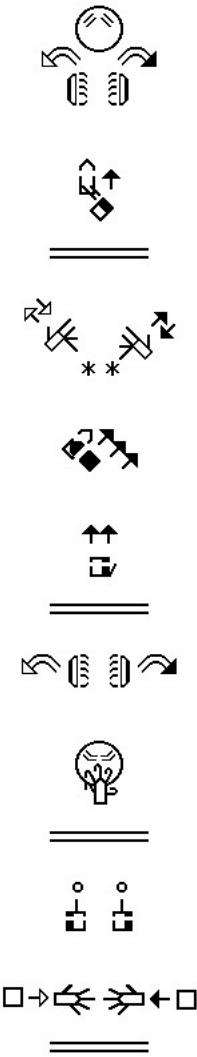


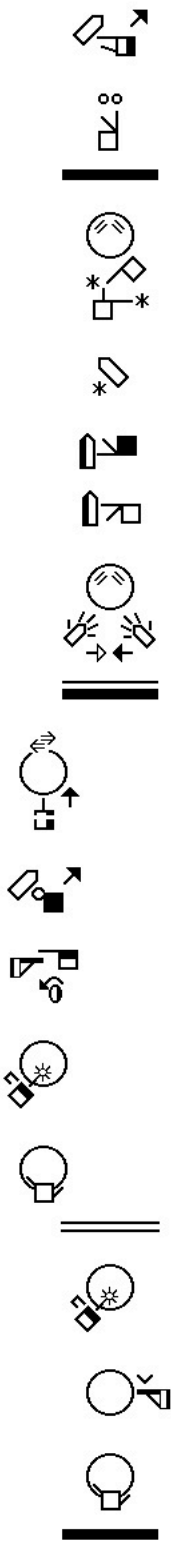
though I was sorry at first, for I know it was painful to you for a little while. Verse 9. Now I am glad I sent it, not because it hurt you, but because the pain caused you to repent and change your ways. It was the kind of sorrow God wants his people to have, so you were not harmed by us in any way.

NLT

			
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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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








































































			
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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

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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

NLT



































































                	                  	                  	                  
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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

NLT

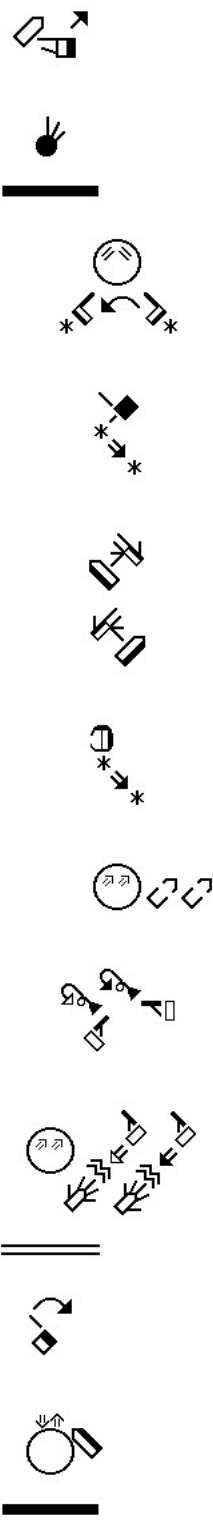
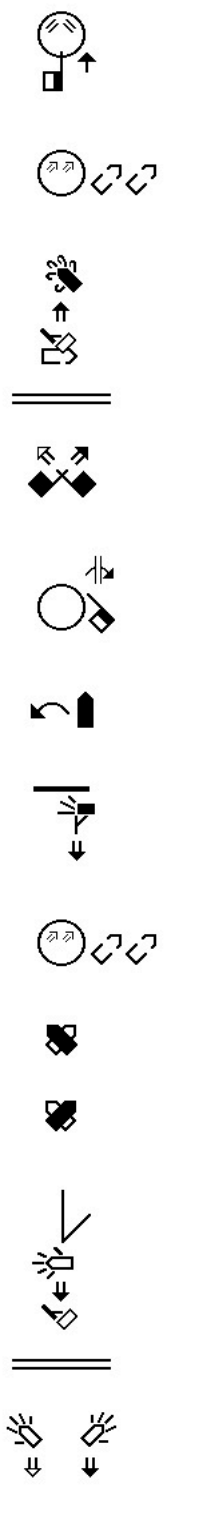
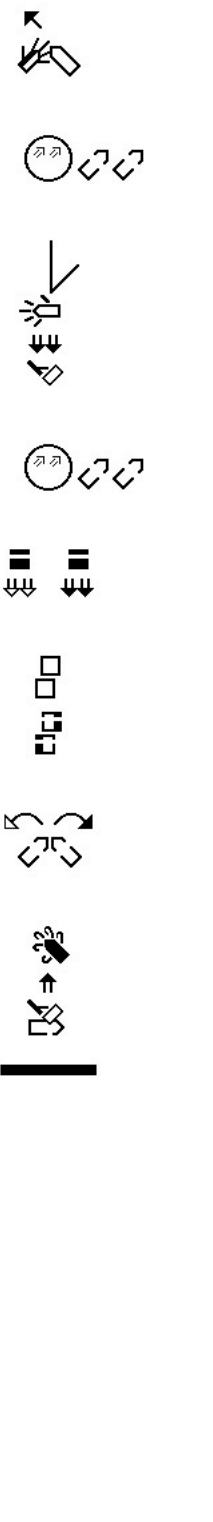
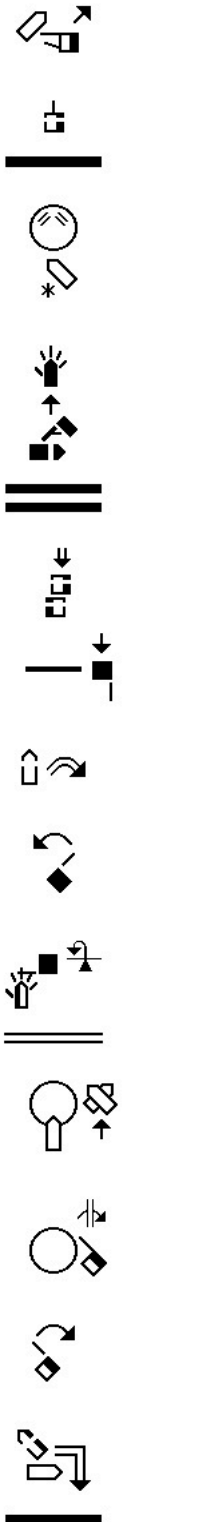
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was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do. Verse 6. So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. Verse 7. Since you excel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

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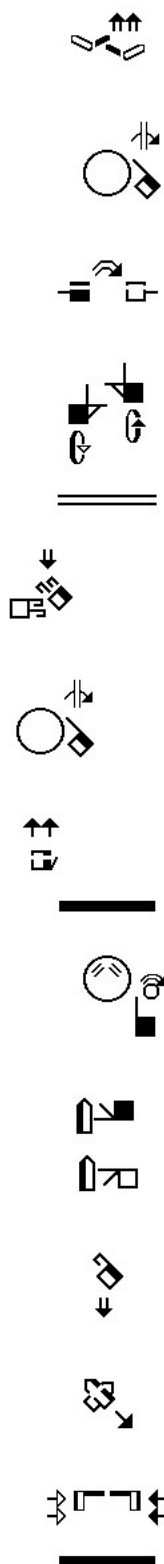
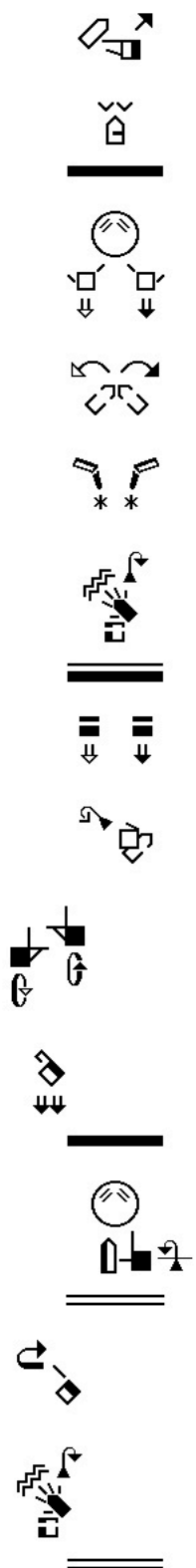
speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us -- I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. Verse 8. I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches.

NLT

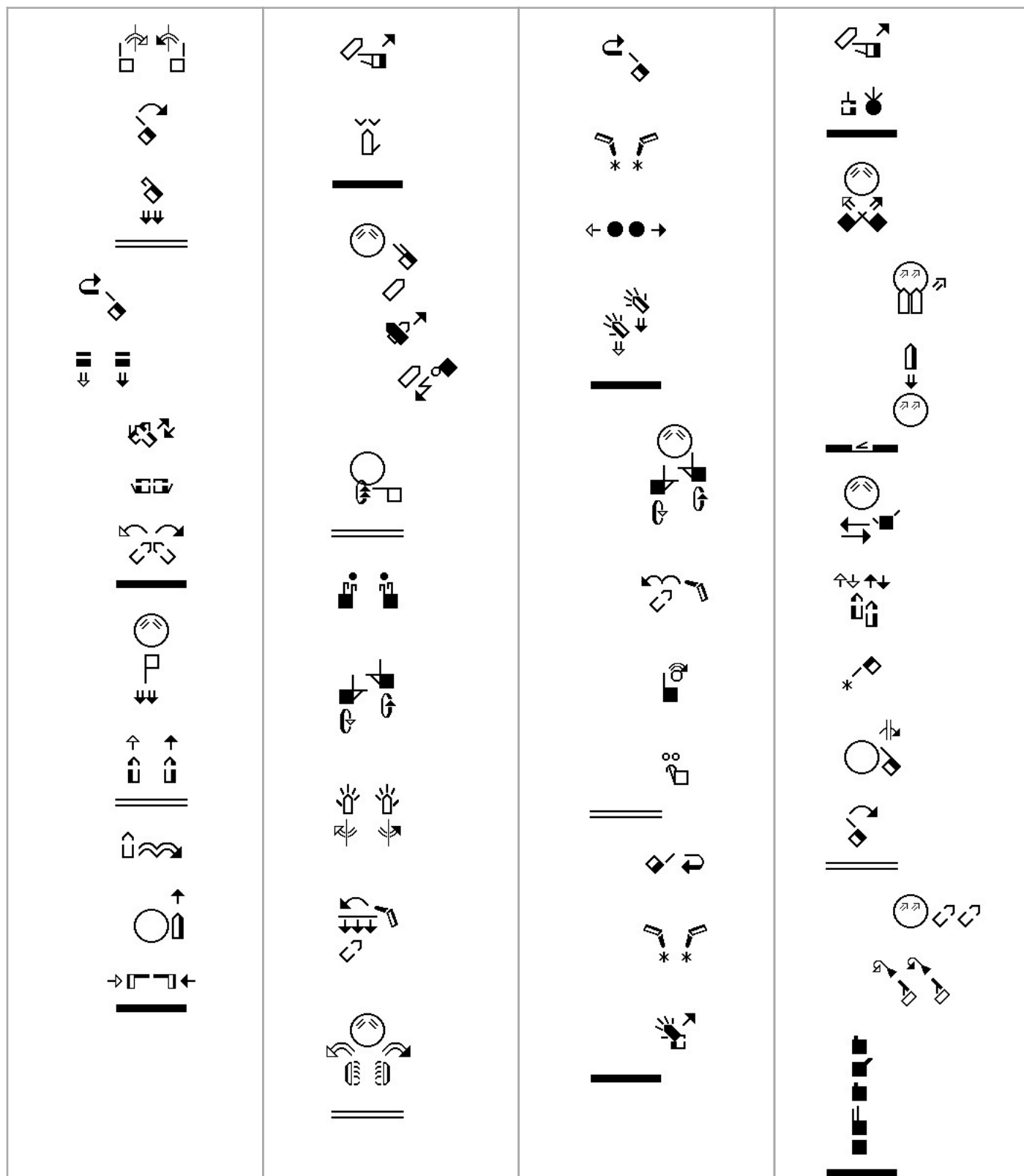
			
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Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. Verse 11. Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have. Verse 12. Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And NLT








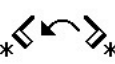

























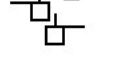














			
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give according to what you have, not what you don't have. Verse 13. Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality. Verse 14. Right now you have plenty and 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 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

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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.

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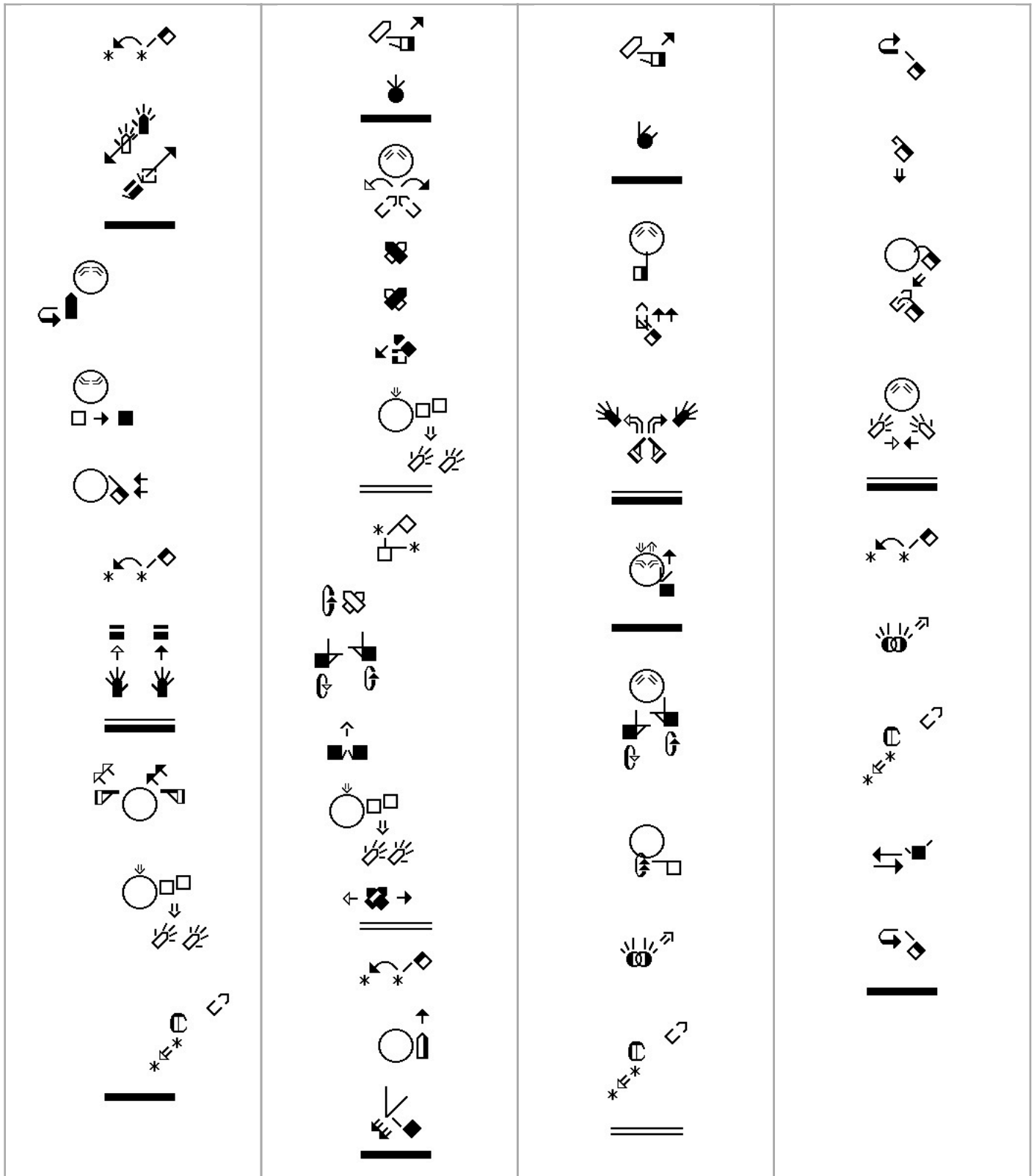
Chapter 10. Now I, Paul, appeal to you with the gentleness and kindness of Christ -- though I realize you think I am timid in person and bold only when I write from far away. Verse 2. Well, I am begging you now so that when I come I won't have to be bold with those who think we act from human motives.

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









































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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.




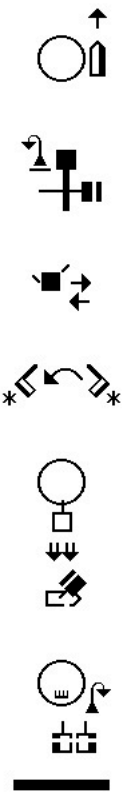
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We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ. Verse 6. And after you have become fully obedient, we will punish everyone who remains disobedient. Verse 7. Look at the obvious facts. Those who say they belong to Christ must recognize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


















































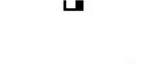



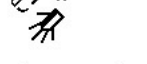


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Verse 8. I may seem to be boasting too much about the authority given to us by the Lord. But our authority builds you up; it doesn't tear you down. So I will not be ashamed of using my authority. Verse 9. I'm not trying to frighten you by my letters.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

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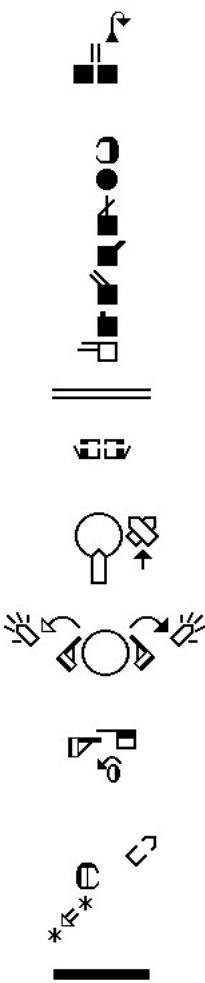
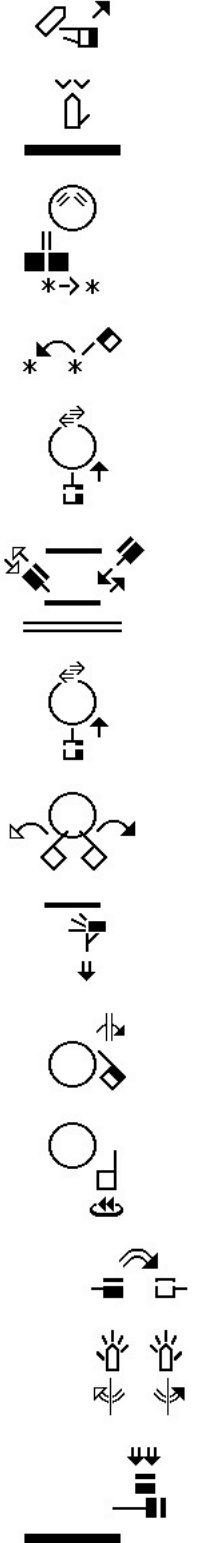
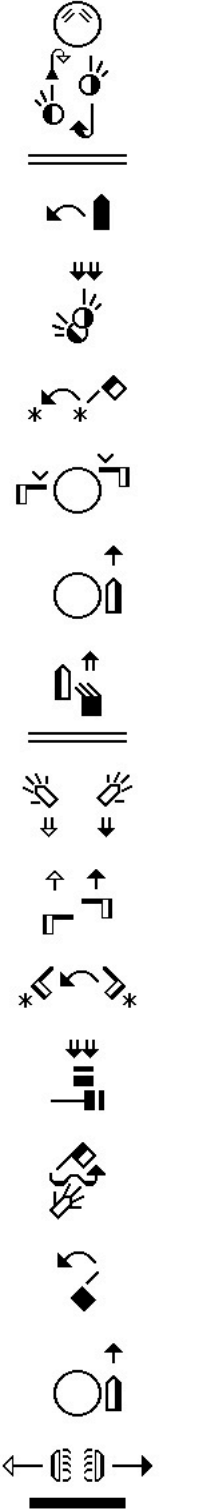
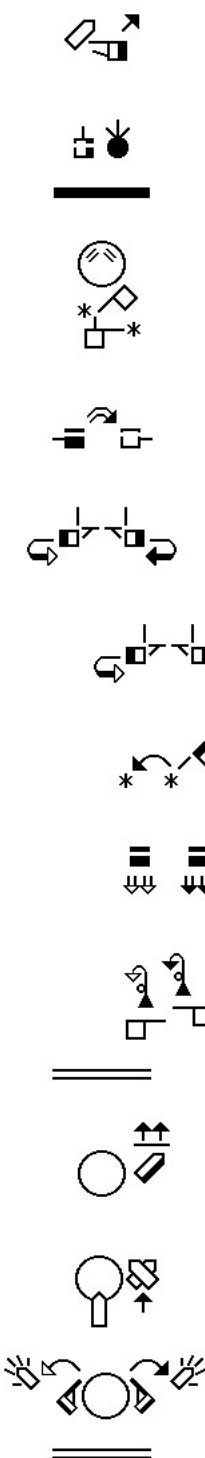
              	        	               	               
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Verse 12. Oh, don't worry; we wouldn't dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant!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

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will boast only about what has happened within the boundaries of the work God has given us, which includes our working with you. Verse 14. We are not reaching beyond these boundaries when we claim authority over you, as if we had never visited you. For we were the first to travel






















































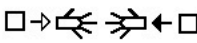
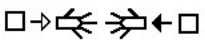




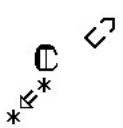





			
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all the way to Corinth with the Good News of Christ. Verse 15. Nor do we boast and claim credit for the work someone else has done. Instead, we hope that your faith will grow so that the boundaries of our work among you will be extended. Verse 16.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

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313 far beyond you, where no one else is working. Then there will be no question of our boasting about work done in someone else's territory. Verse 17. As the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD."
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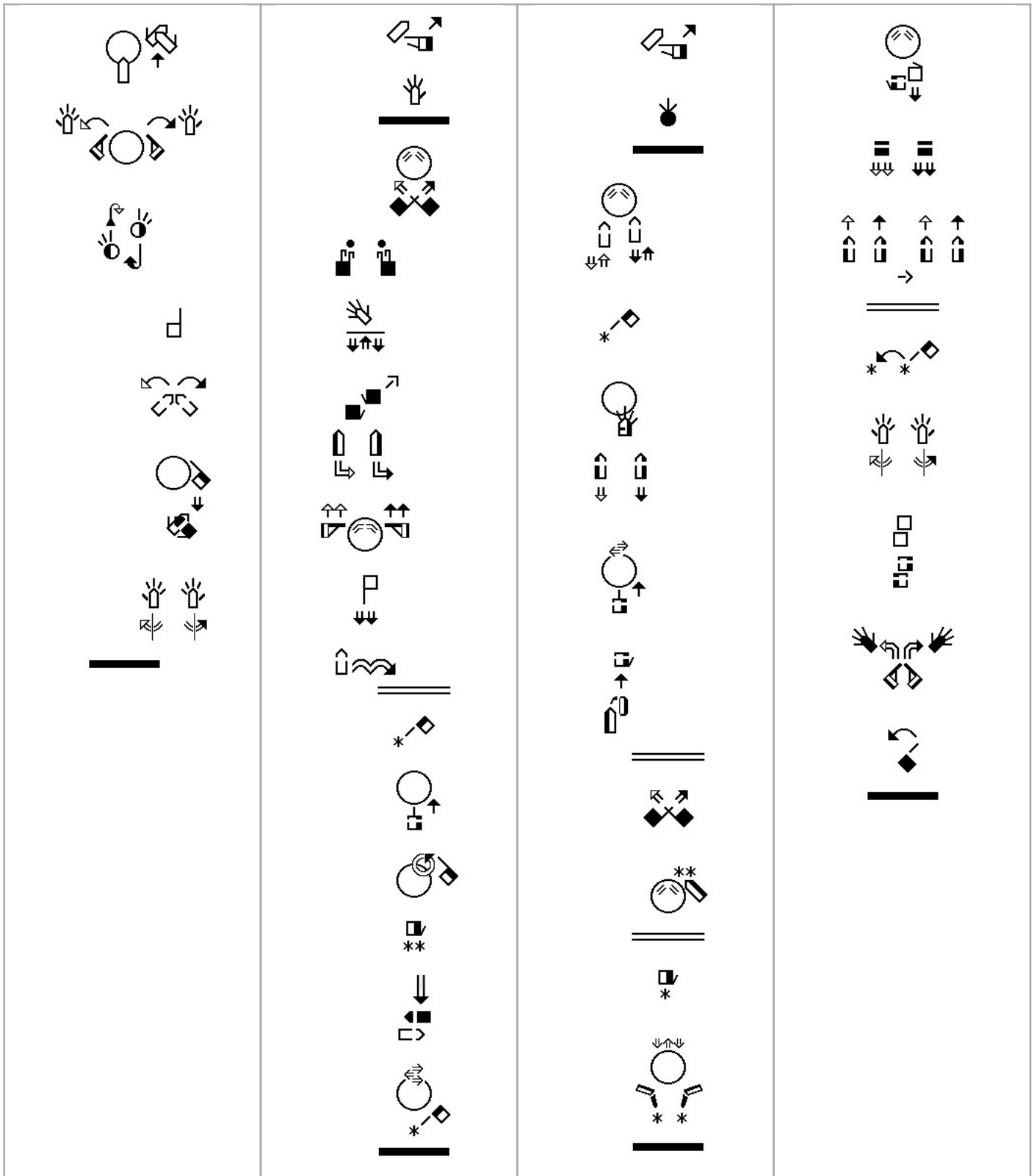
Chapter 11. I hope you will put up with a little more of my foolishness. Please bear with me. Verse 2. For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband -- Christ. Verse 3. But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be

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


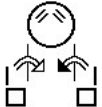




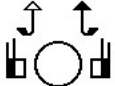

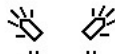


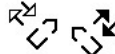







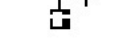

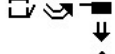











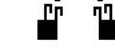


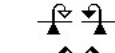





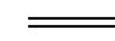










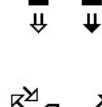


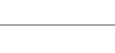


corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent. Verse 4. You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different kind of Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind

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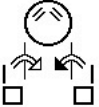





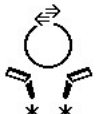











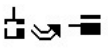


























of gospel than the one you believed. Verse 5. But I don't consider myself inferior in any way to these "super apostles" who teach such things. Verse 6. I may be unskilled as a speaker, but I'm not lacking in knowledge. We have made this clear to you in every possible way.




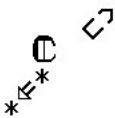





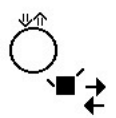

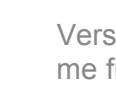






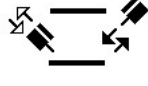

























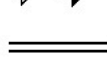

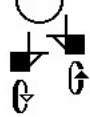
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Verse 7. Was I wrong when I humbled myself and honored you by preaching God's Good News to you without expecting anything in return? Verse 8. I "robbed" other churches by accepting their contributions so I could serve you at no cost. NLT

             	            	          	       
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319 Verse 9. And when I was with you and didn't have enough to live on, I did not become a financial burden to anyone. For the brothers who came from Macedonia brought me all that I needed. I have never been a burden to you, and I never will be. 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.

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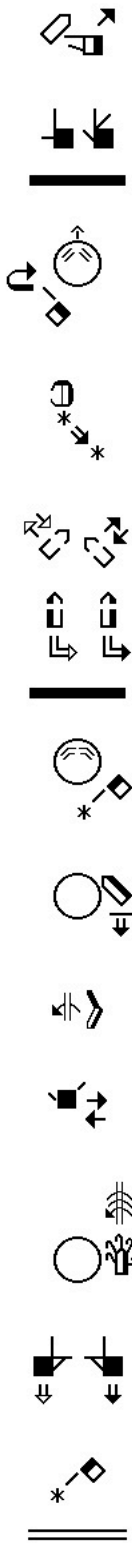
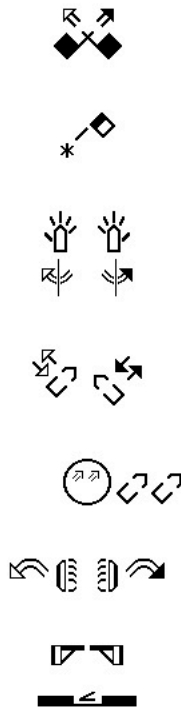

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Verse 17. Such boasting is not from the Lord, but I am acting like a fool. Verse 18. And since others boast about their human achievements, I will too. Verse 19. After all, you think you are so wise, but you enjoy putting up with fools! Verse 20. You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

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










































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.

NLT

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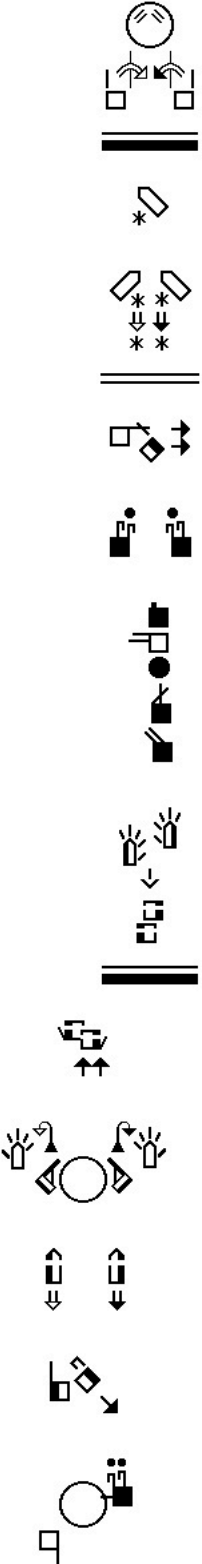
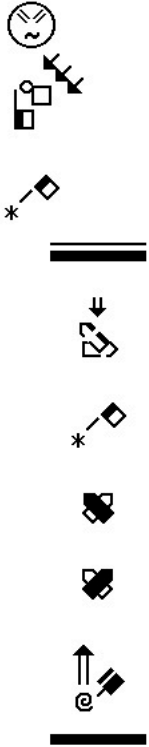
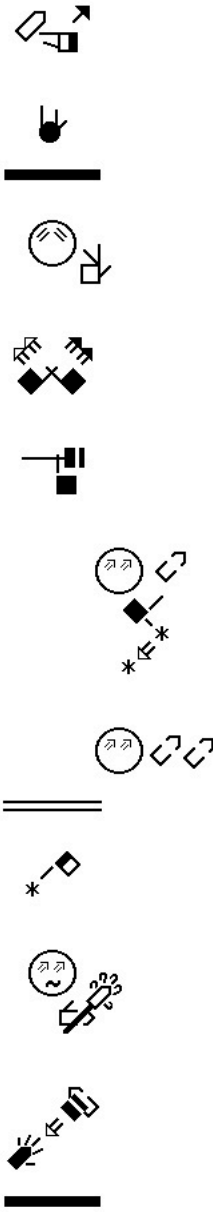
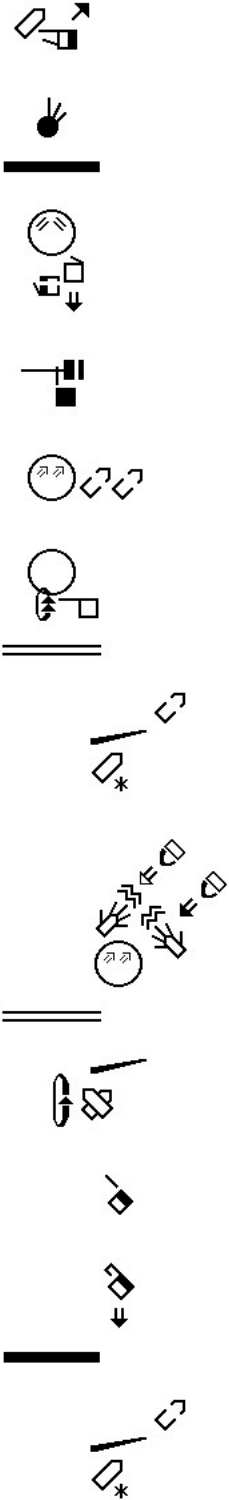
Chapter 12. This boasting will do no good, but I must go on. I will reluctantly tell about visions and revelations from the Lord. Verse 2. I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don't know -- only God knows.

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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.

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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.

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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.

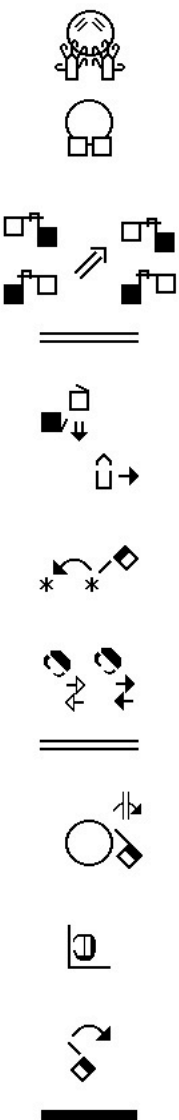
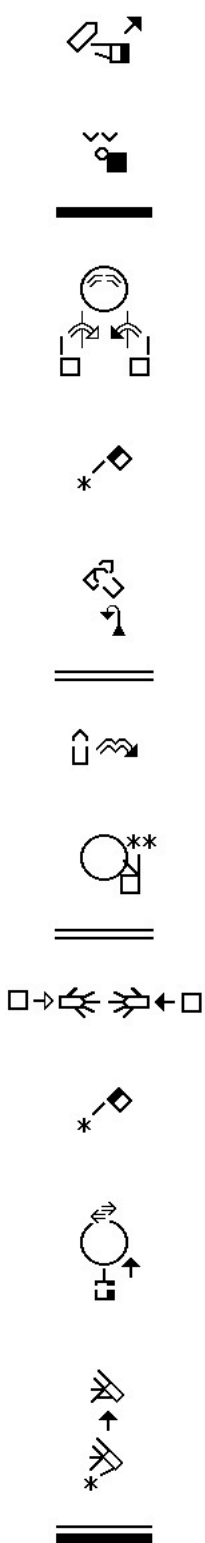
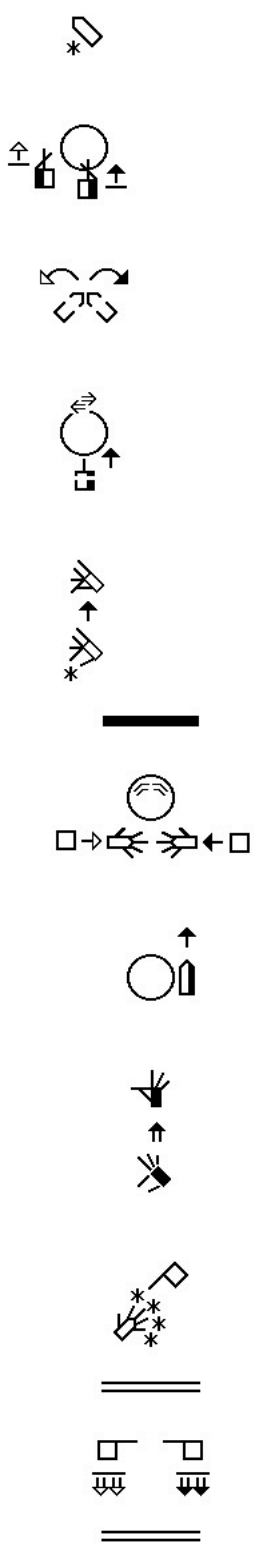
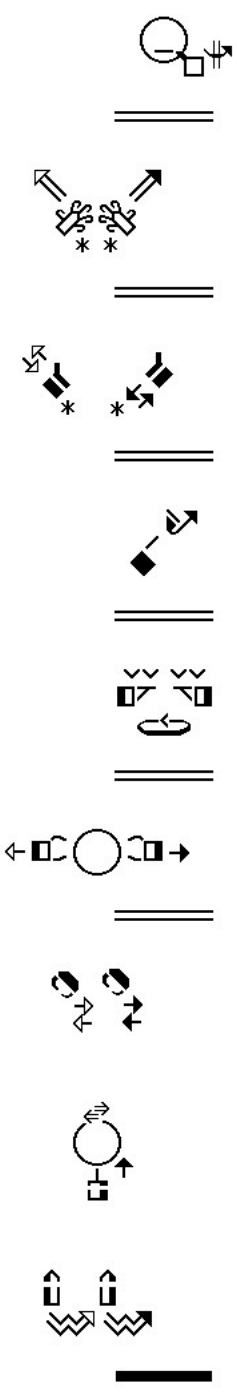
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Verse 16. Some of you admit I was not a burden to you. But others still think I was sneaky and took advantage of you by trickery. Verse 17. But how? Did any of the men I sent to you take advantage of you? Verse 18. When I urged Titus to visit you and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

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





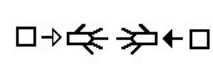








































































sent our other brother with him, did Titus take advantage of you? No! For we have the same spirit and walk in each other's steps, doing things the same way. Verse 19. Perhaps you think we're saying these things just to defend ourselves. No, we tell you this as Christ's servants, and with God as our witness.

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









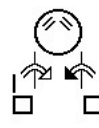

















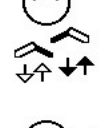












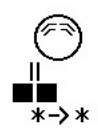














Everything we do, dear friends, is to strengthen you. Verse 20. For I am afraid that when I come I won't like what I find, and you won't like my response. I am afraid that I will find quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorderly behavior.

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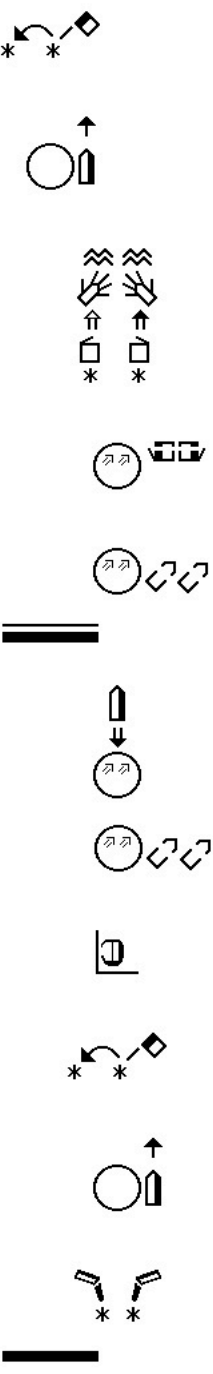
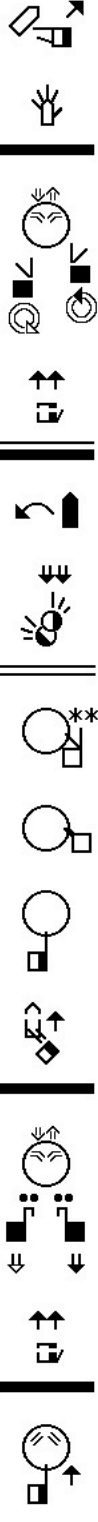
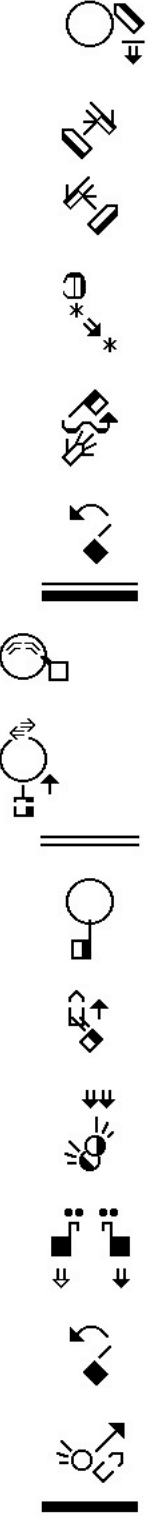
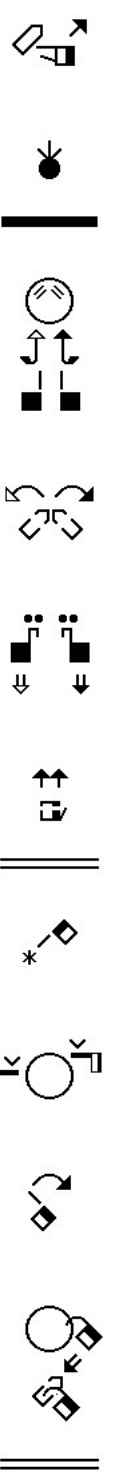
Verse 21. Yes, I am afraid that when I come again, God will humble me in your presence. And I will be grieved because many of you have not given up your old sins. You have not repented of your impurity, sexual immorality, and eagerness for lustful pleasure. NLT

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




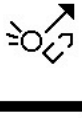

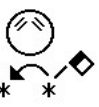

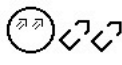


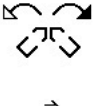

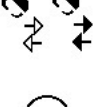


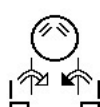
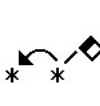


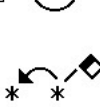
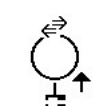
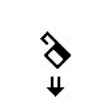



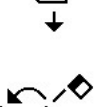

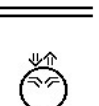


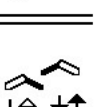
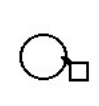

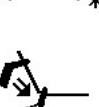
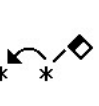
Verse 3. I will give you all the proof you want that Christ speaks through me. Christ is not weak when he deals with you; he is powerful among you. Verse 4. Although he was crucified in weakness, he now lives by the power of God. We, too, are weak, just as Christ was, but when we deal with you

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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


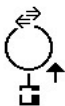





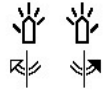
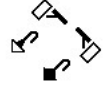







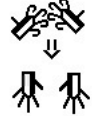


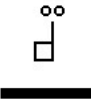



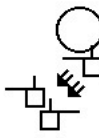

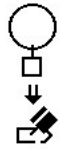









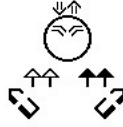

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that we have not failed the test of apostolic authority. Verse 7. We pray to God that you will not do what is wrong by refusing our correction. I hope we won't need to demonstrate our authority when we arrive. Do the right thing before we come -- even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

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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

