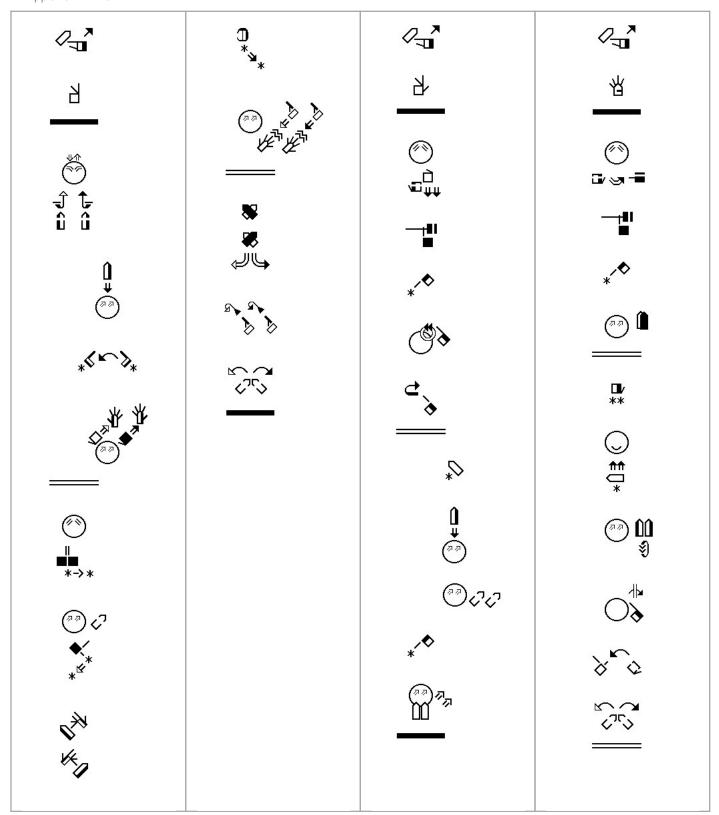


Philippians Chapter One. This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus. I am writing to all of God's holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the elders and deacons.

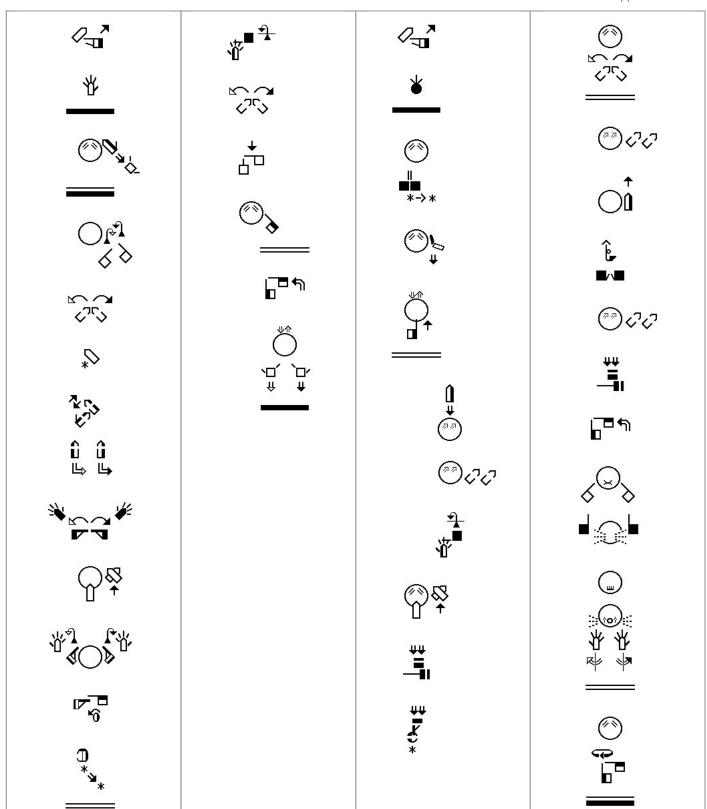
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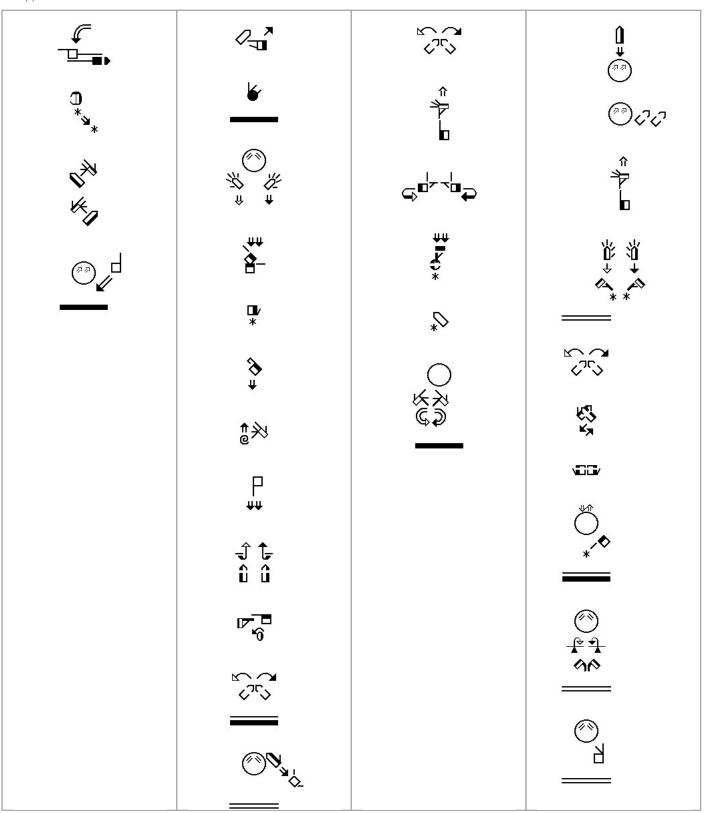


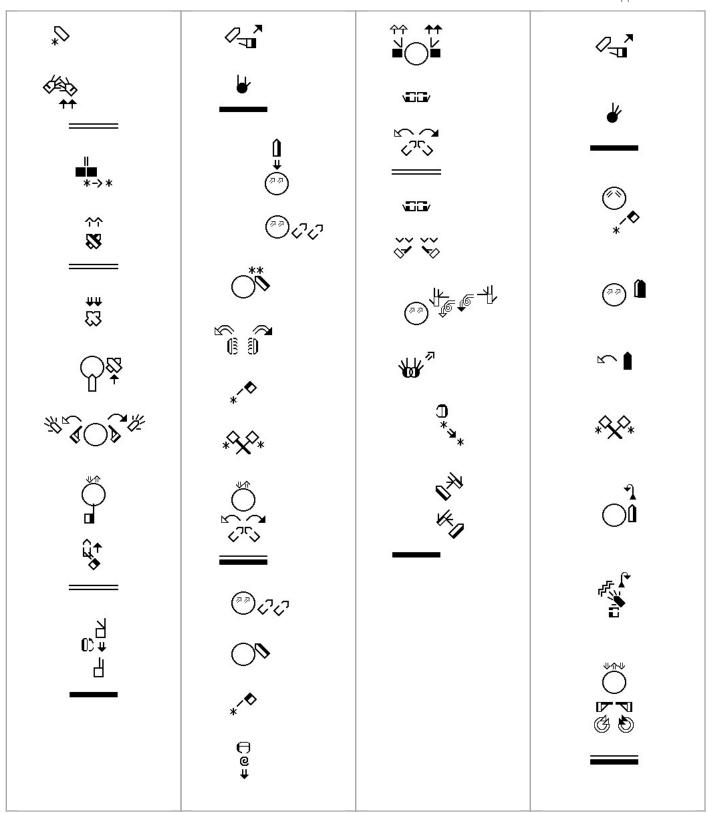
Verse 2. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. Verse 3. Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Verse 4. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy,

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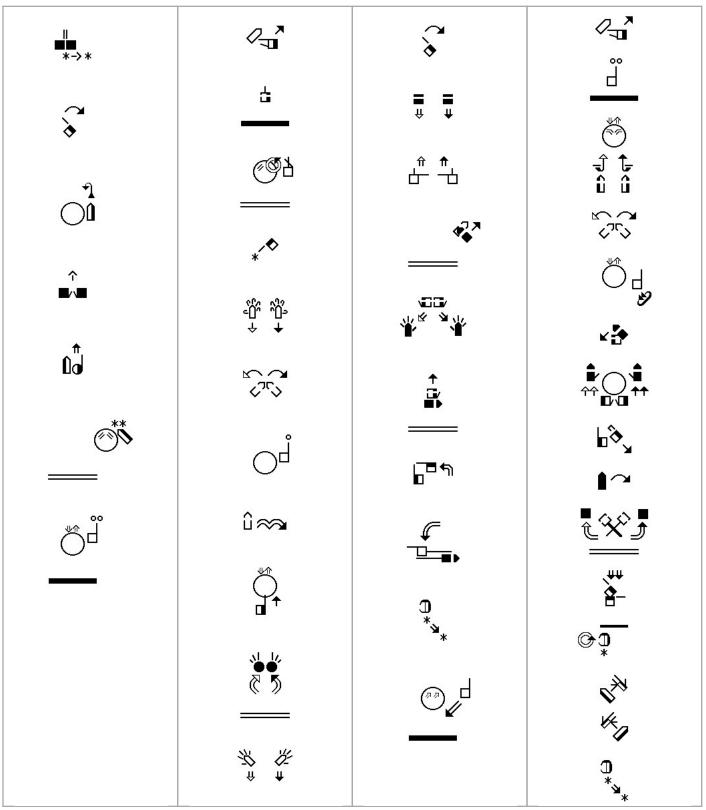


Verse 5. for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. Verse 6. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished NLT

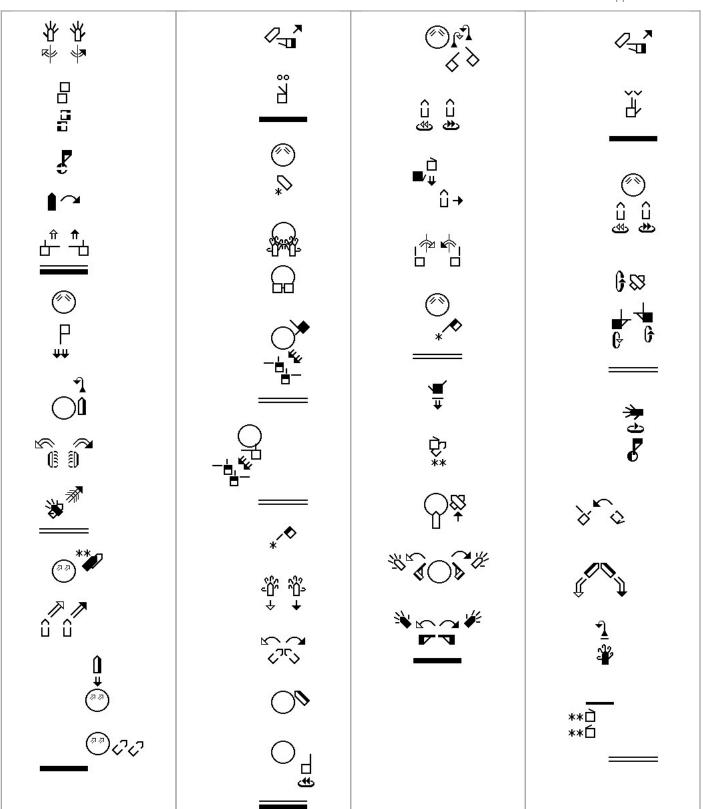




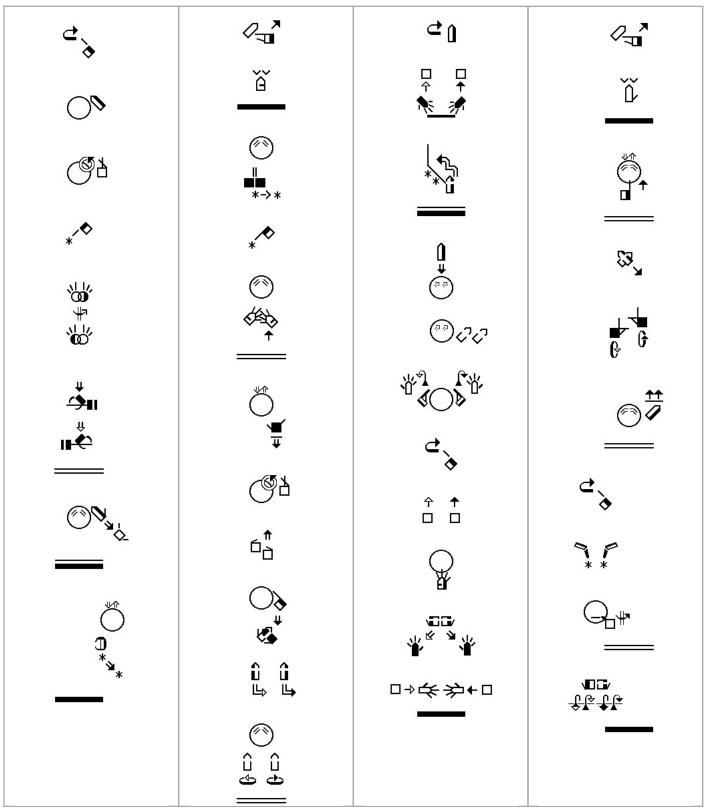
both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. Verse 8. God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus. Verse 9. I pray that your love will overflow more and more, NLT



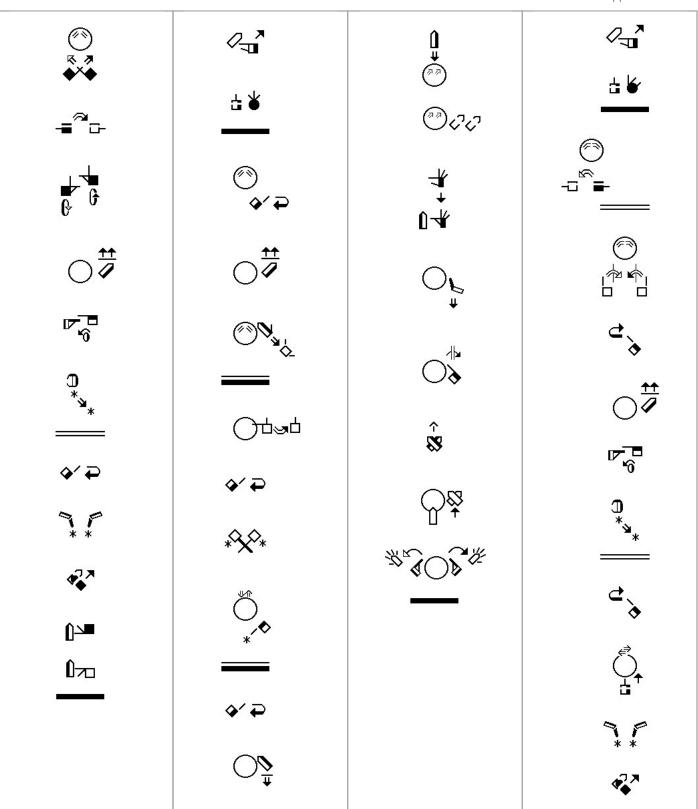
and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. Verse 10. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. Verse 11. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation -- the righteous character



produced in your life by Jesus Christ -- for this will bring much glory and praise to God. Verse 12. And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. Verse 13. For everyone here, including the whole palace guard,

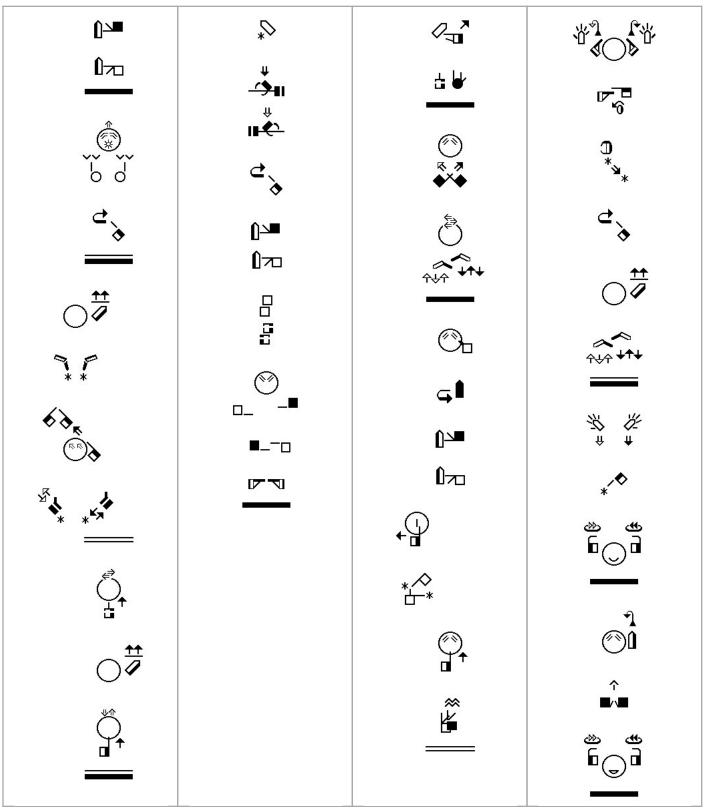


knows that I am in chains because of Christ. Verse 14. And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear. Verse 15. It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry.

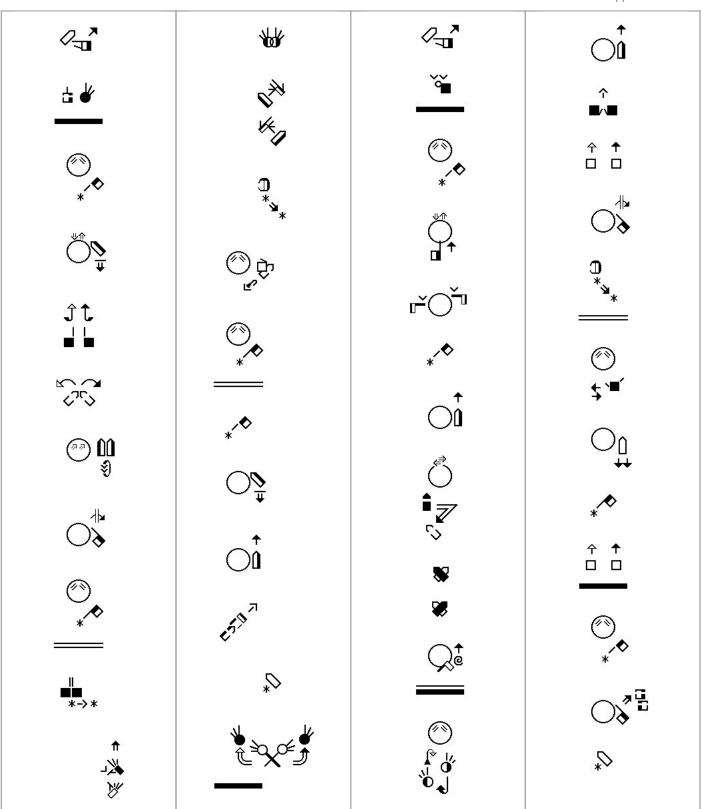


But others preach about Christ with pure motives. Verse 16. They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the Good News. Verse 17. Those others do not have pure

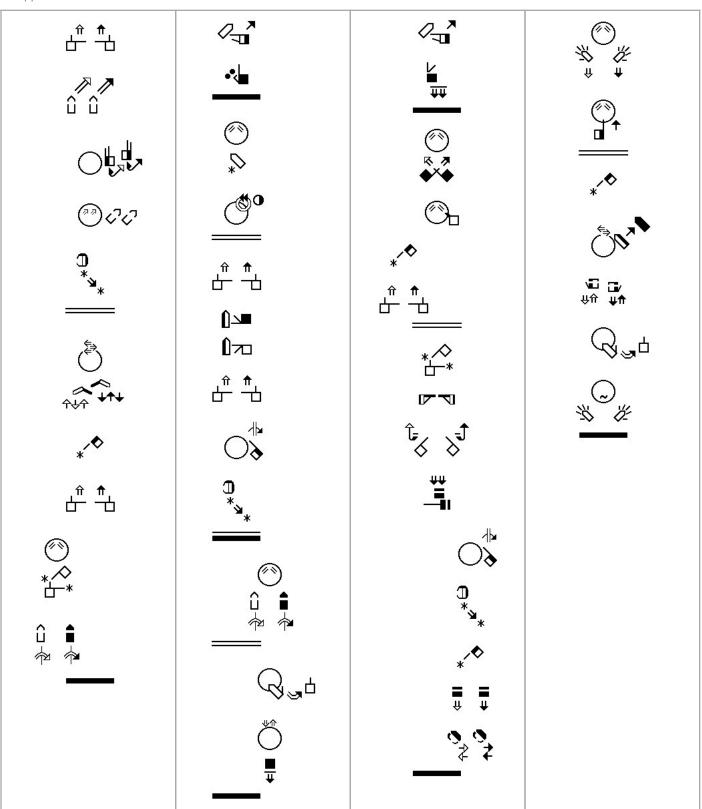
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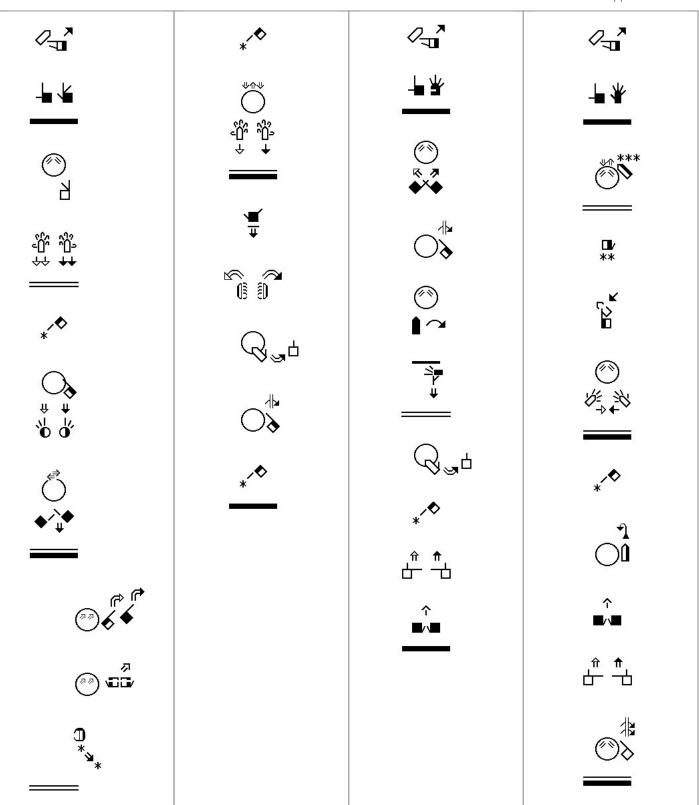
motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. Verse 18. But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice.



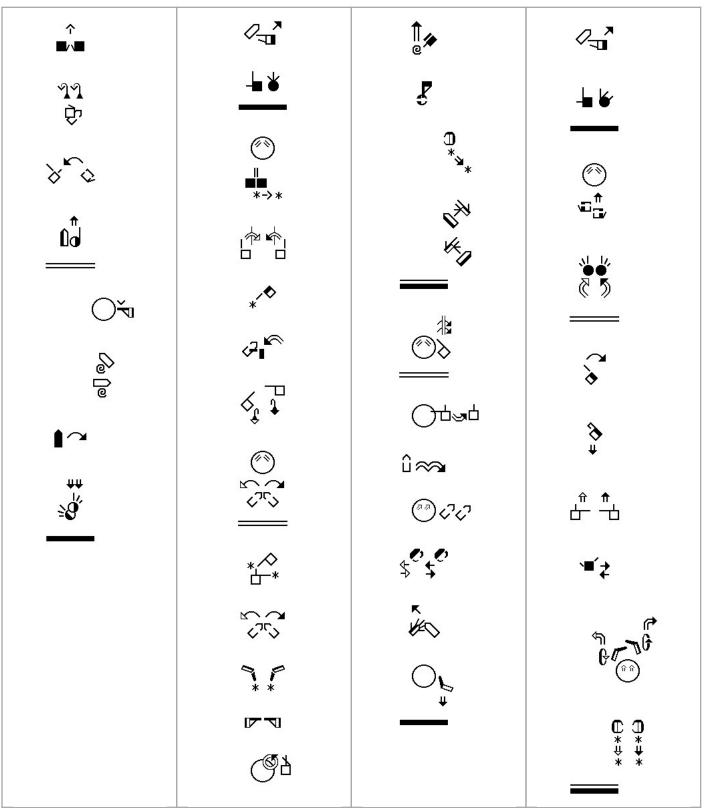
Verse 19. For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance. Verse 20. For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my



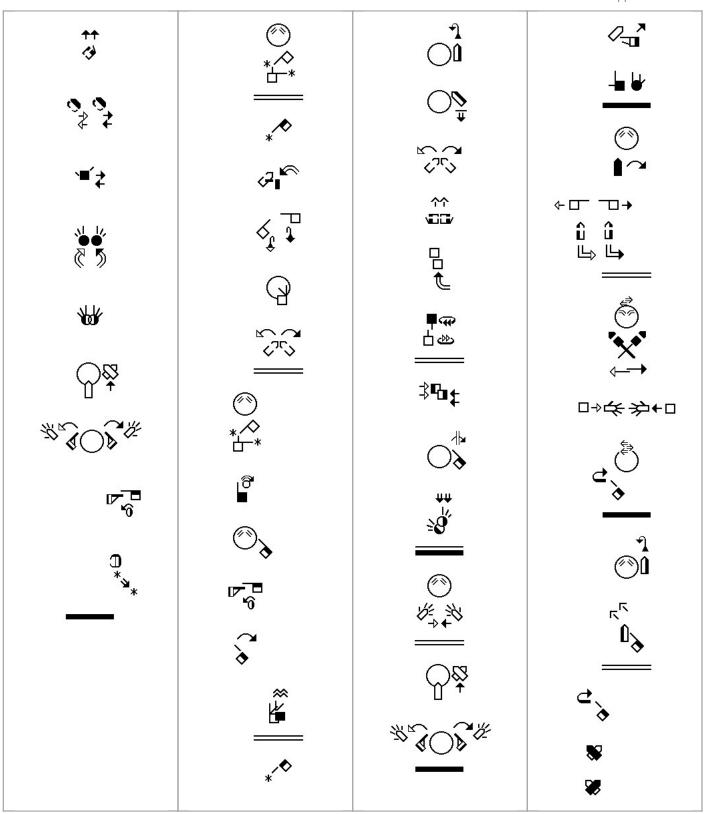
life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. Verse 21. For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. Verse 22. But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better.



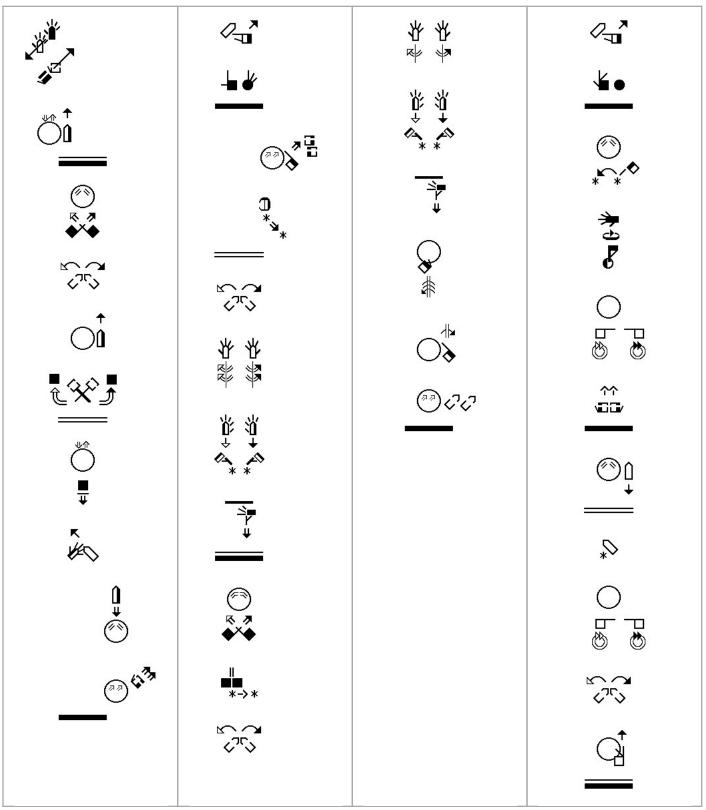
Verse 23. I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. Verse 24. But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. Verse 25. Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive



so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. Verse 26. And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me. Verse 27. Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven,

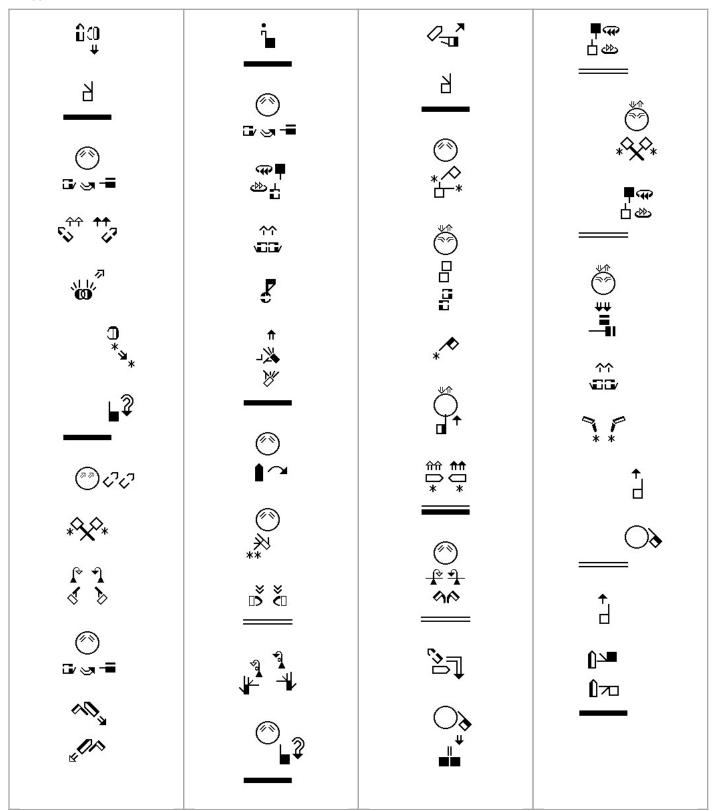


conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing side by side, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. Verse 28. Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they



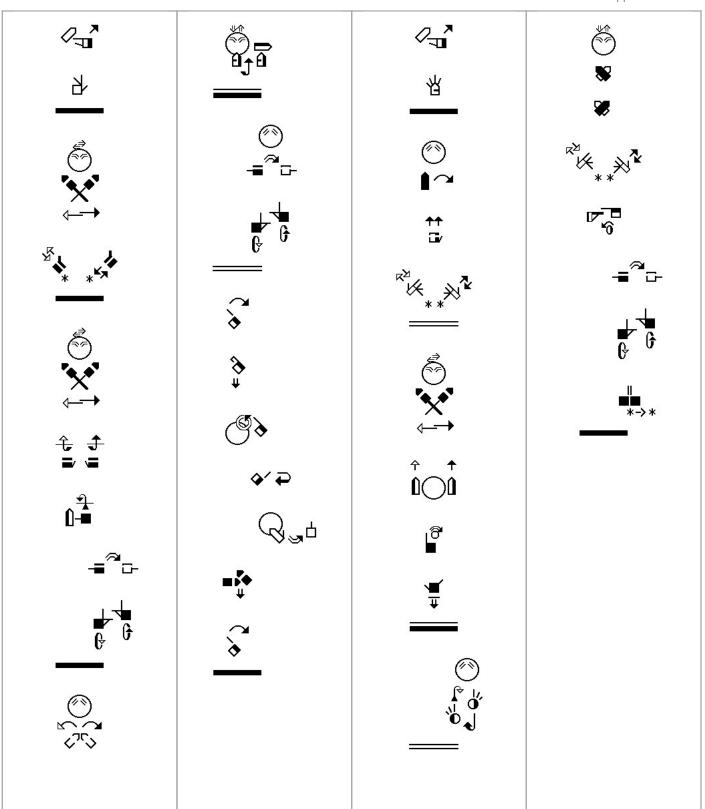
are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. Verse 29. For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. Verse 30. We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past,

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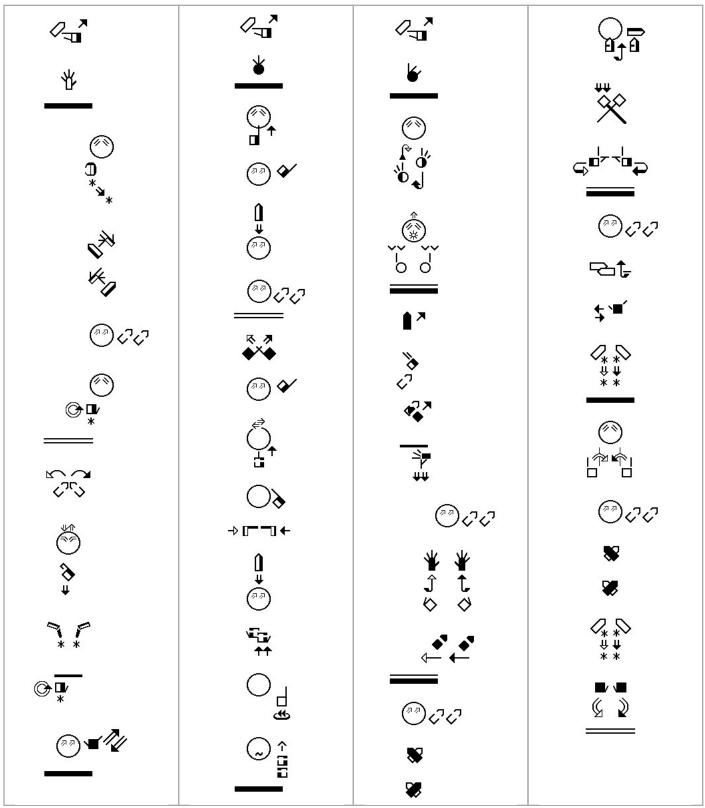


Chapter 2. Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Verse 2. Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

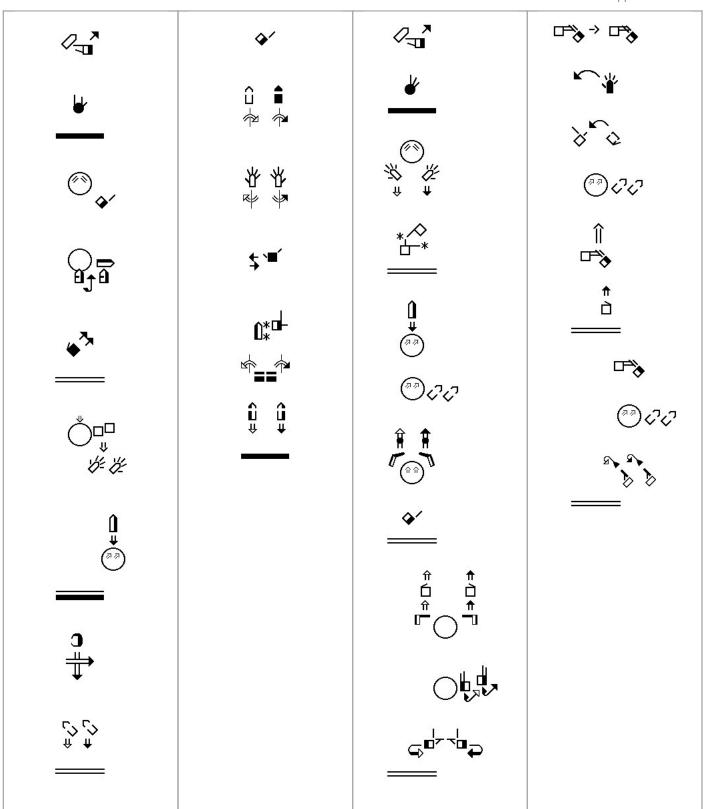
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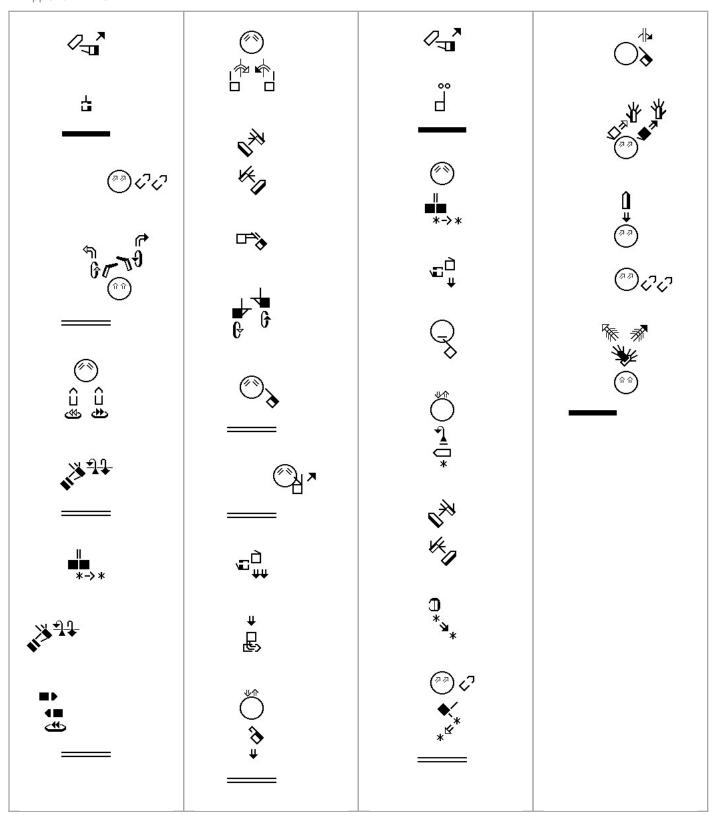
Verse 3. Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Verse 4. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.



Verse 5. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Verse 6. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Verse 7. Instead, he gave up his diving privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,

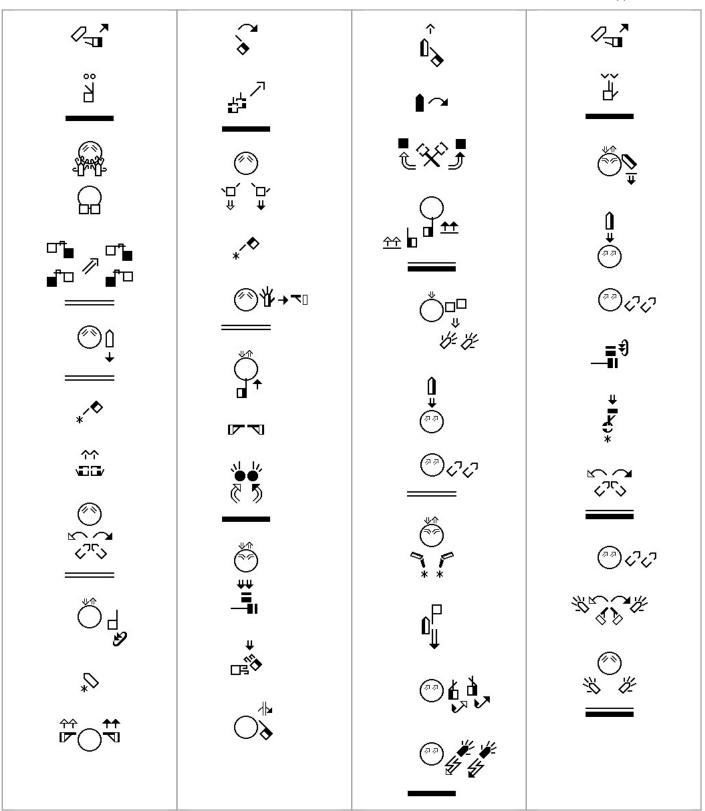


Verse 8. he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Verse 9. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names,

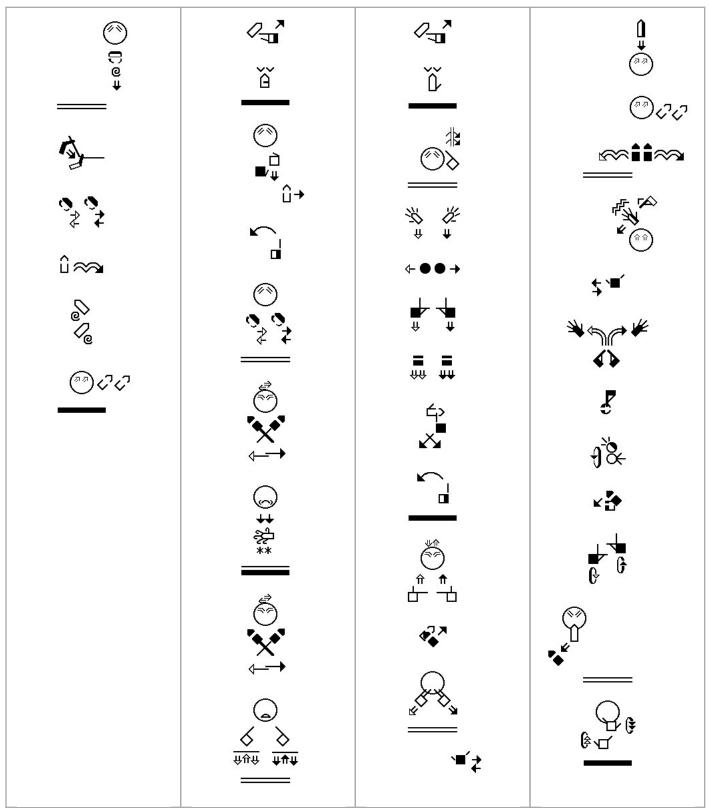


Verse 10. that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, Verse 11. and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

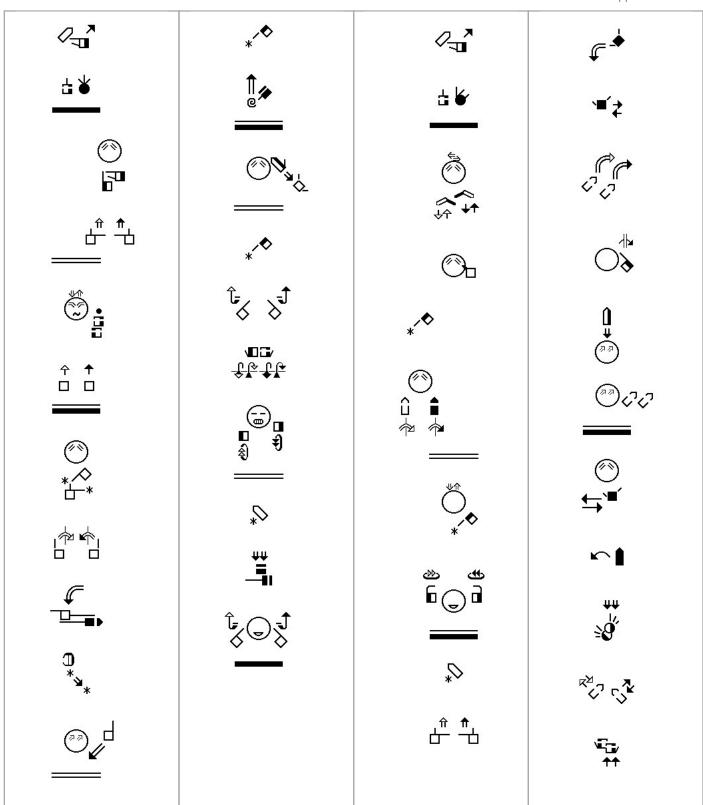
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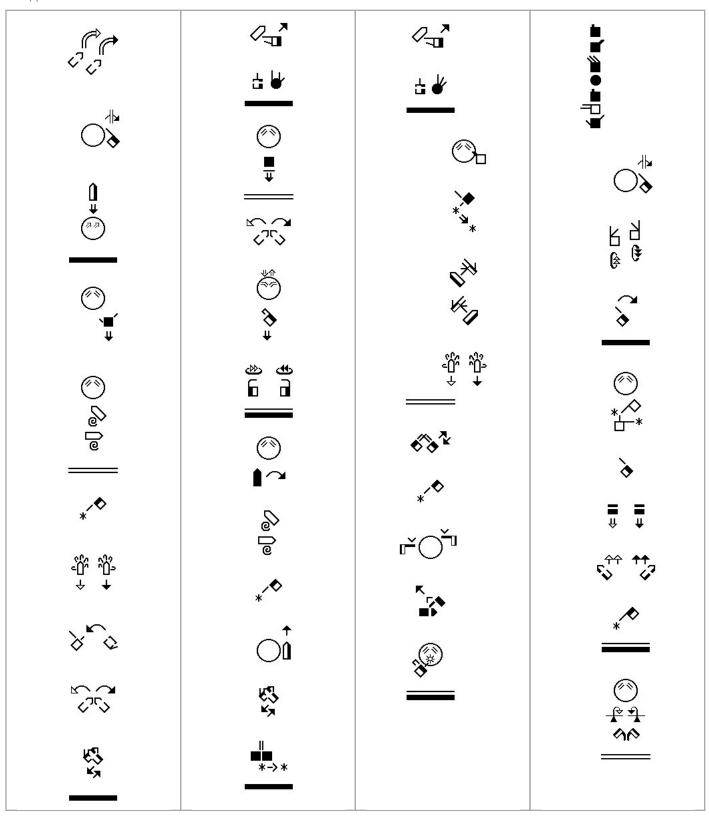
Verse 12. Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. Verse 13. For God is working in you, giving you



the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Verse 14. Do everything without complaining and arguing, Verse 15. so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.

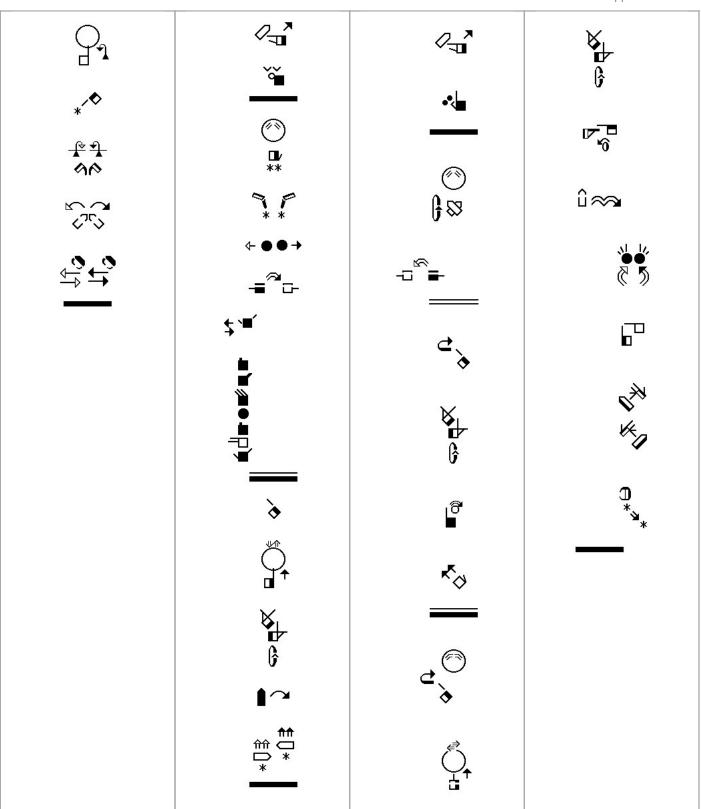


Verse 16. Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. Verse 17. But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service

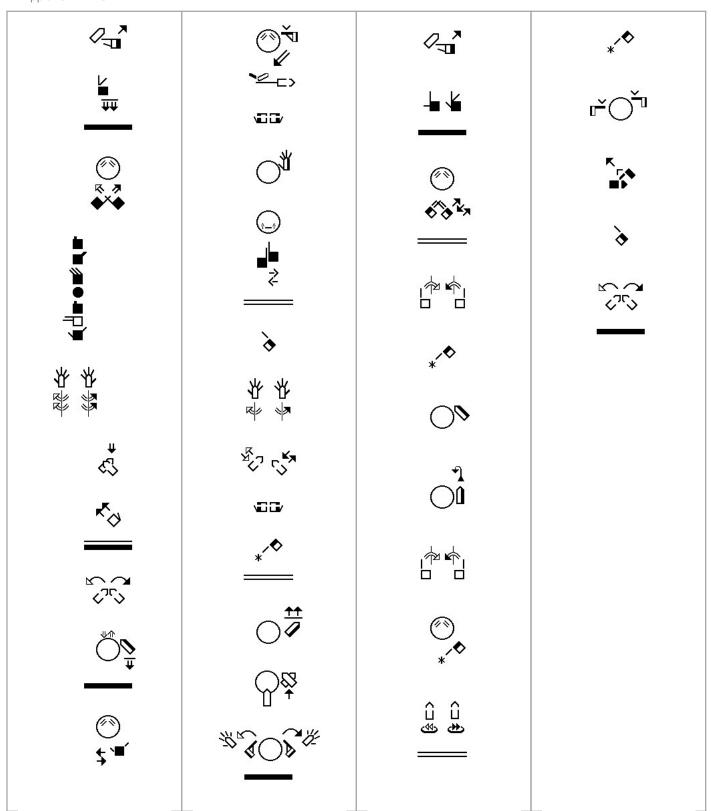


is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. Verse 18. Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy. Verse 19. If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up

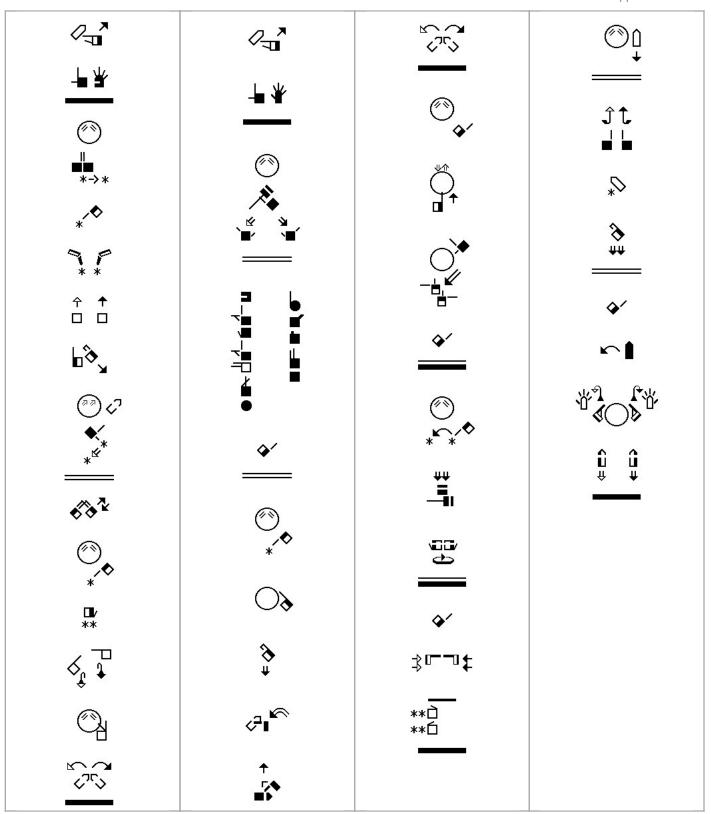
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by telling me how you are getting along. Verse 20. I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. Verse 21. All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ.

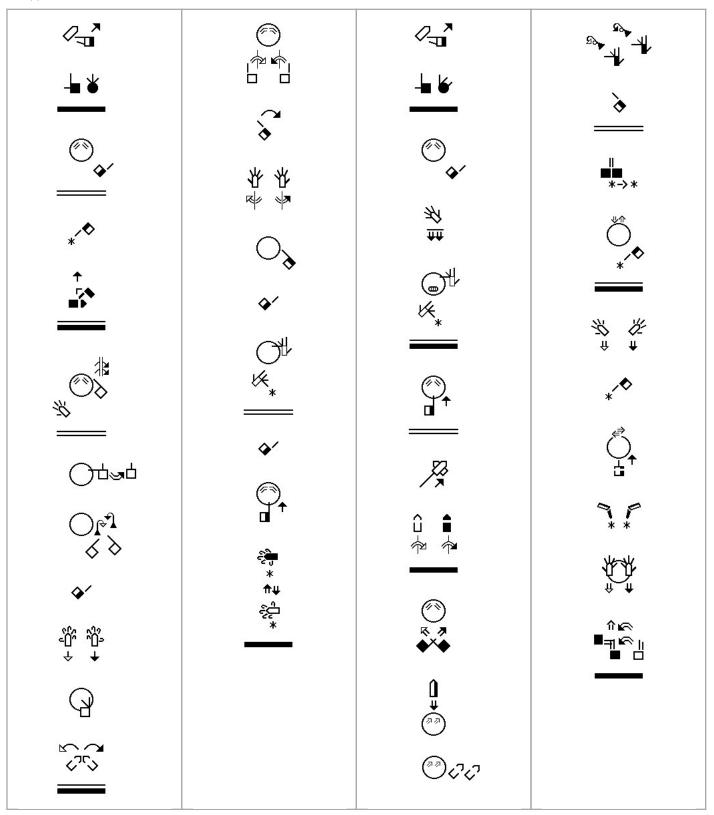


Verse 22. But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. Verse 23. I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here.

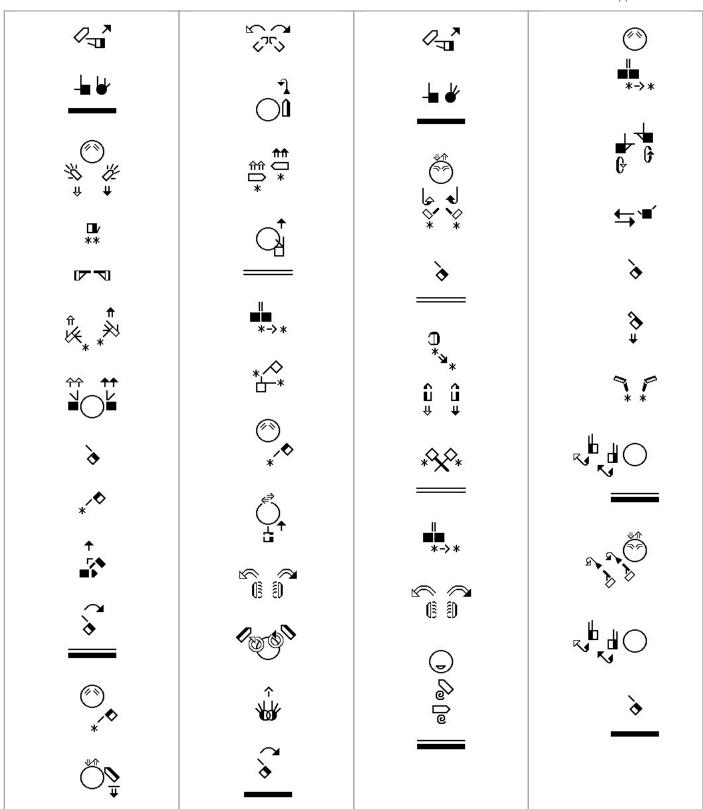


Verse 24. And I have confidence from the Lord that I myself will come to see you soon. Verse 25. Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. And he was your messenger to help me in my need.

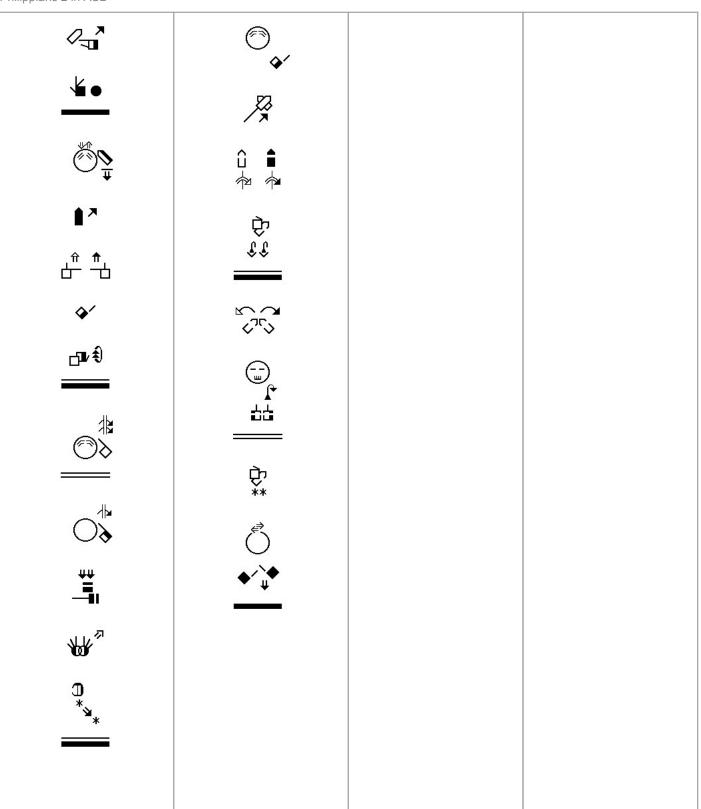
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Verse 26. I am sending him because he has been longing to see you, and he was very distressed that you heard he was ill. Verse 27. And he certainly was ill; in fact, he almost died. But God had mercy on him -- and also on me, so that I would not have one sorrow after another.

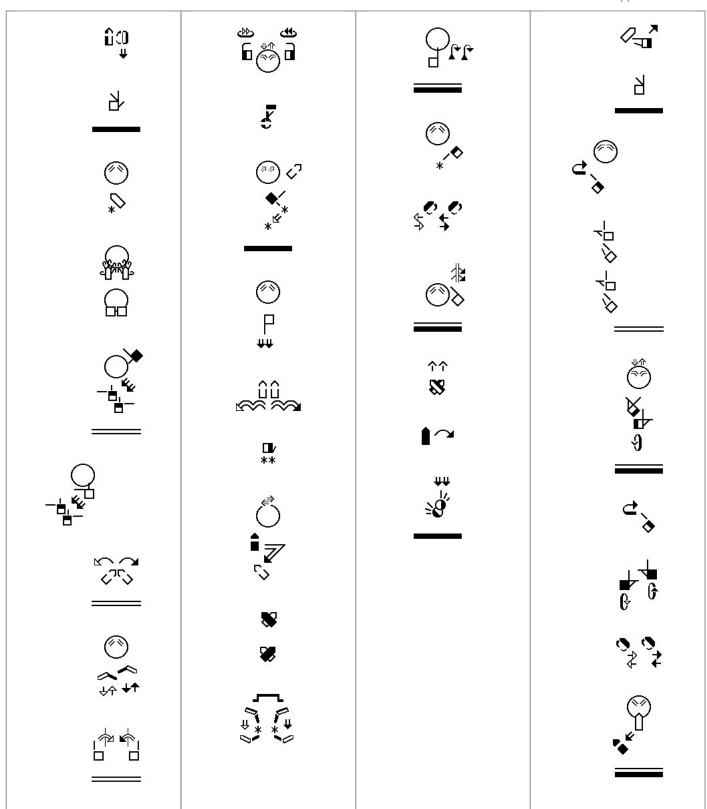


Verse 28. So I am all the more anxious to send him back to you, for I know you will be glad to see him, and then I will not be so worried about you. Verse 29. Welcome him with Christian love and with great joy, and give him the honor that people like him deserve. NLT

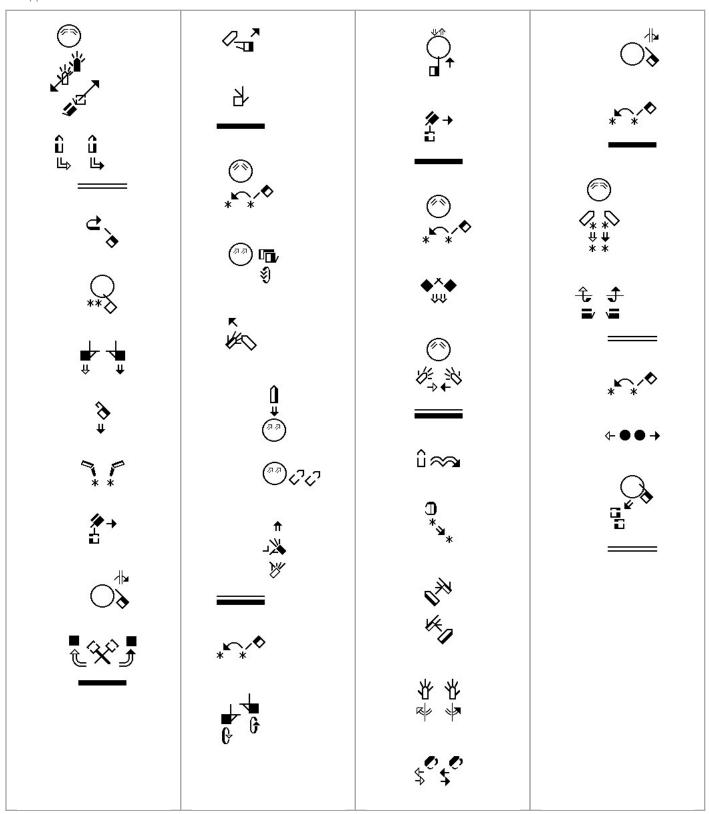


Verse 30. For he risked his life for the work of Christ, and he was at the point of death while doing for me what you couldn't do from far away.

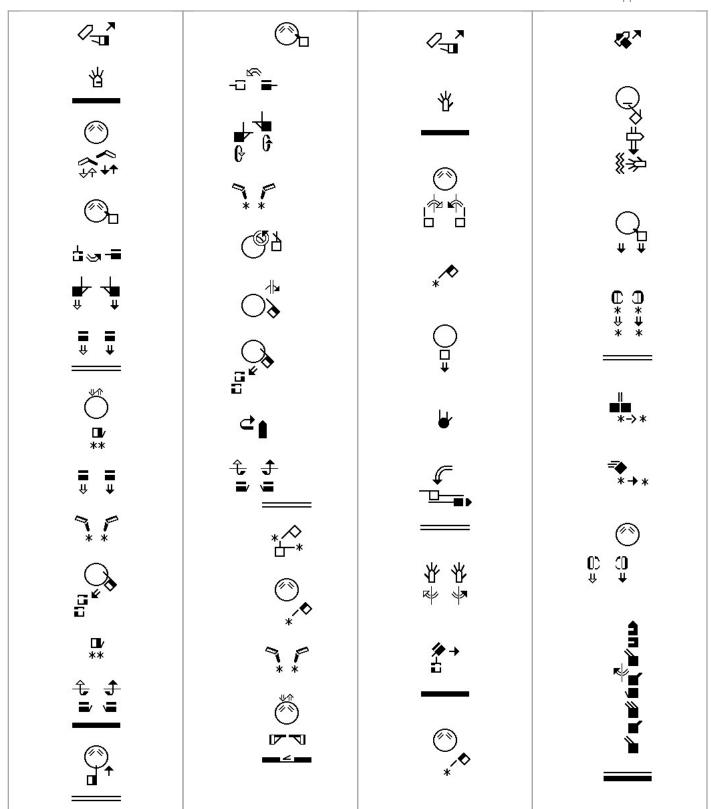
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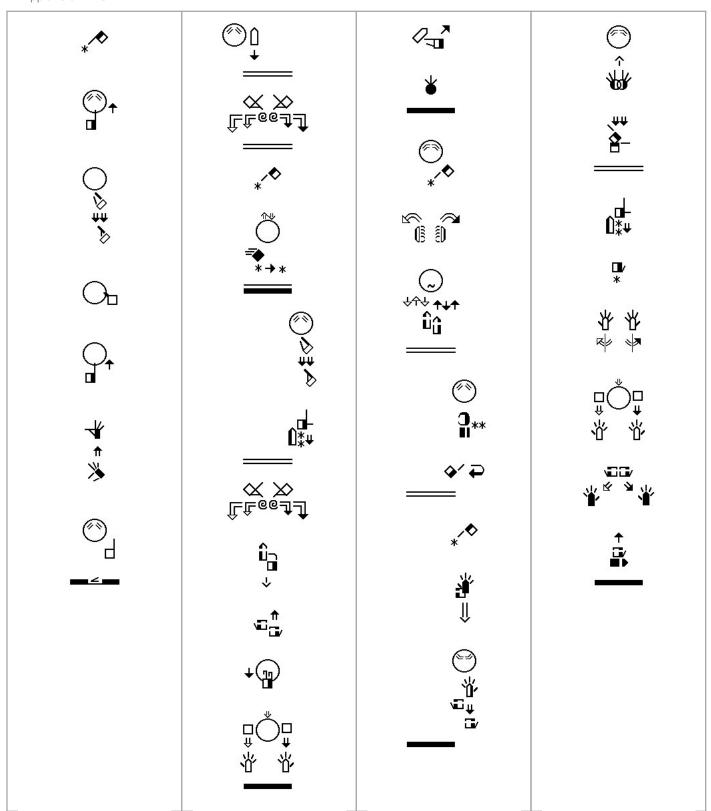
Chapter 3. Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith. Verse 2. Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil,



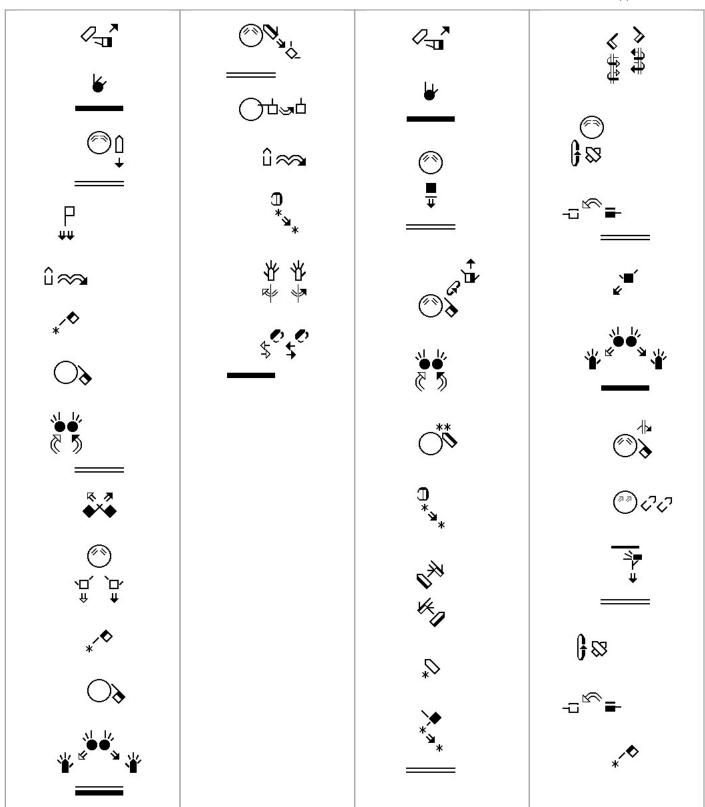
those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. Verse 3. For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort,



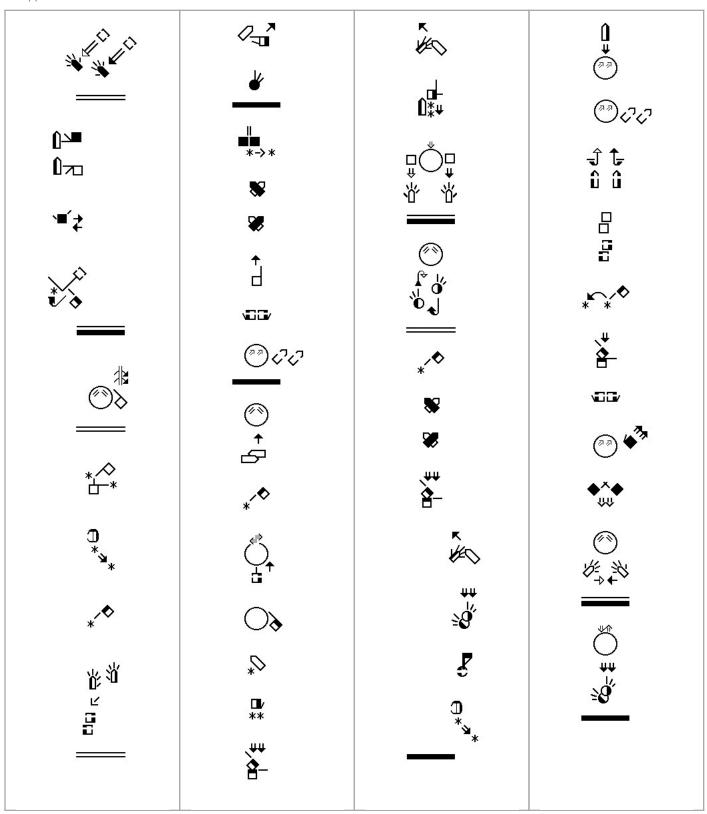
Verse 4. though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! Verse 5. I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin --



a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. Verse 6. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. NLT

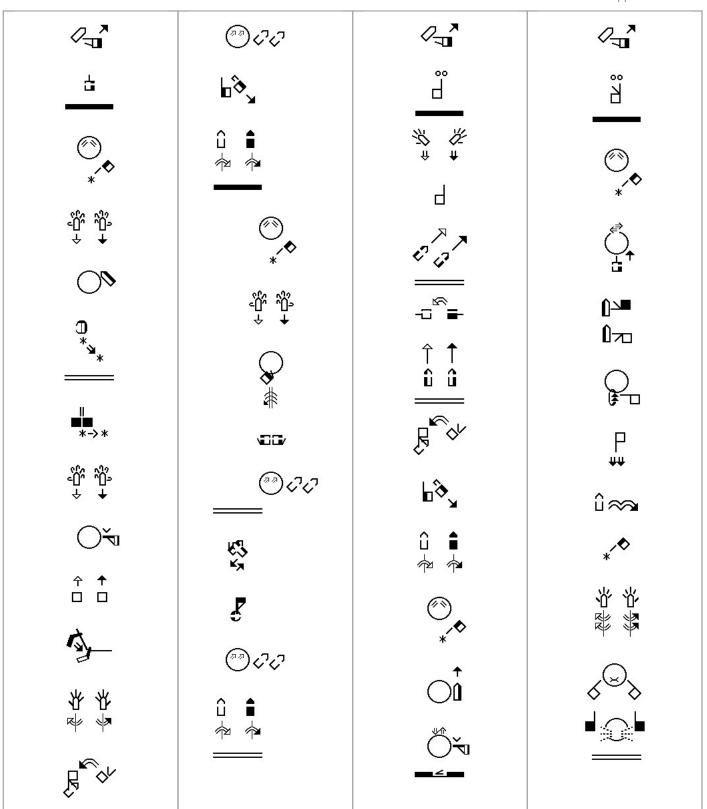


Verse 7. I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Verse 8. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have NLT

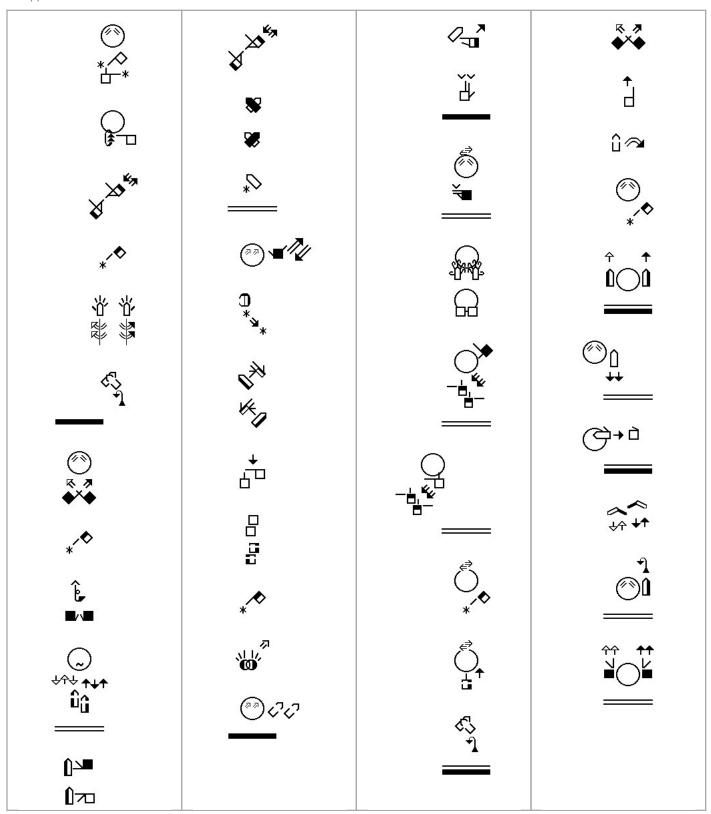


discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ Verse 9. and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.

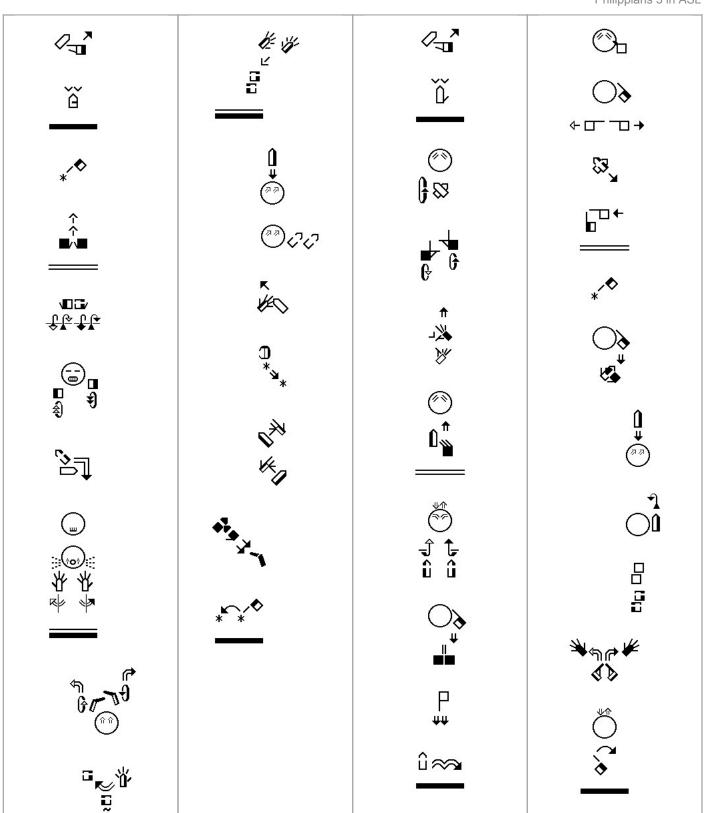
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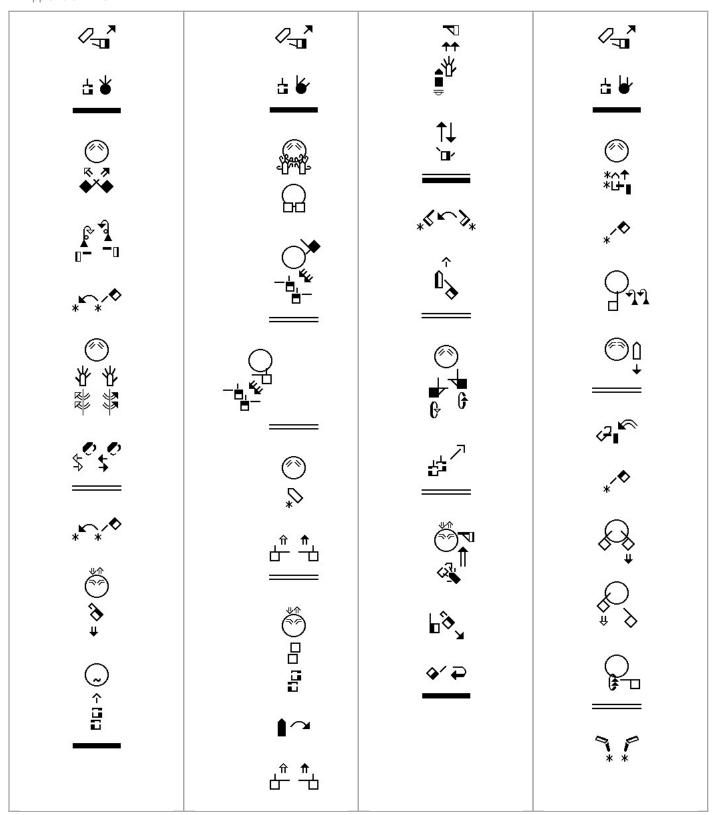
Verse 10. I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, Verse 11. so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! Verse 12. I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things



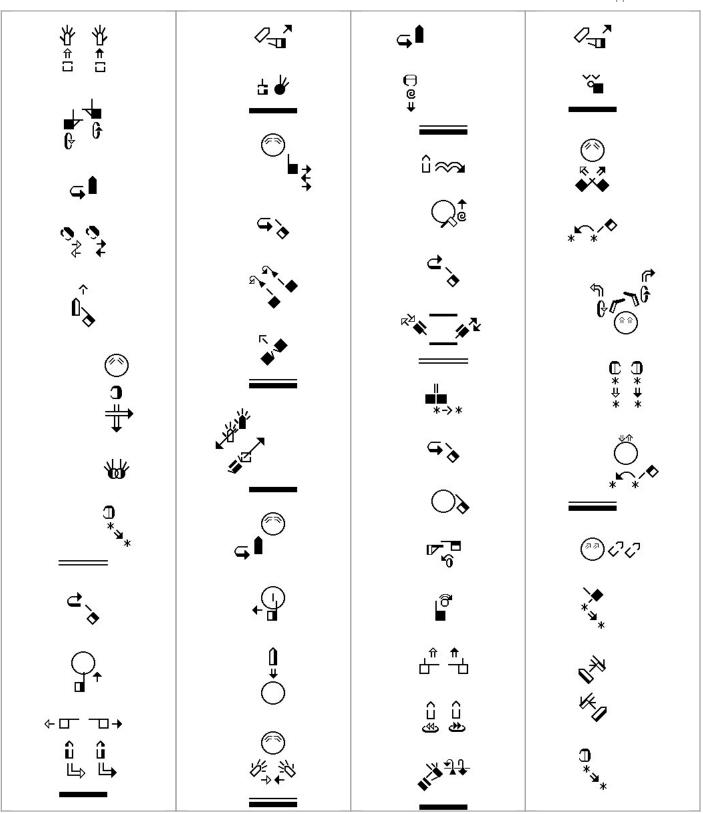
or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. Verse 13. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,



Verse 14. I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. Verse 15. Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you.

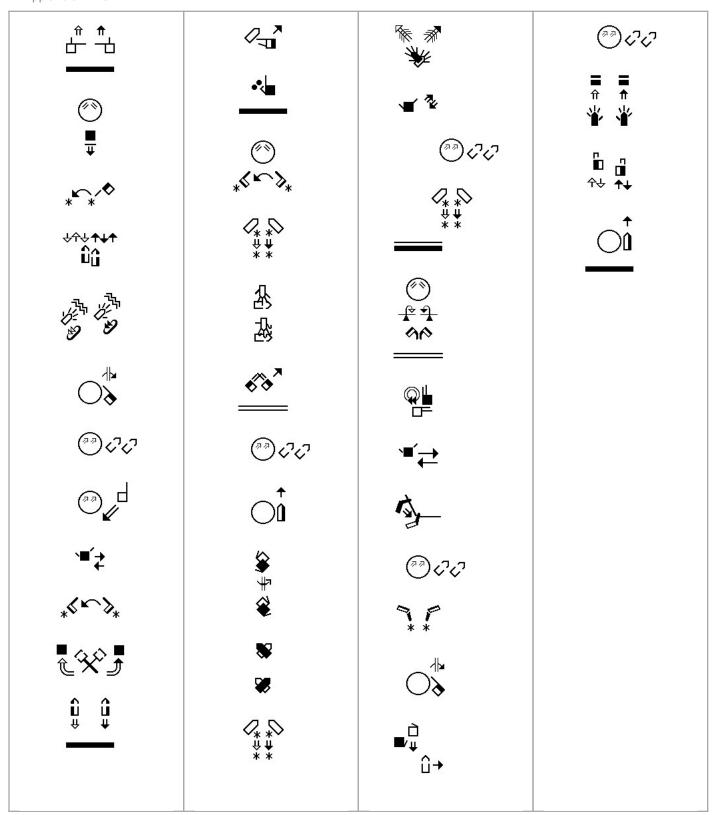


Verse 16. But we must hold on to the progress we have already made. Verse 17. Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. Verse 18. For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are

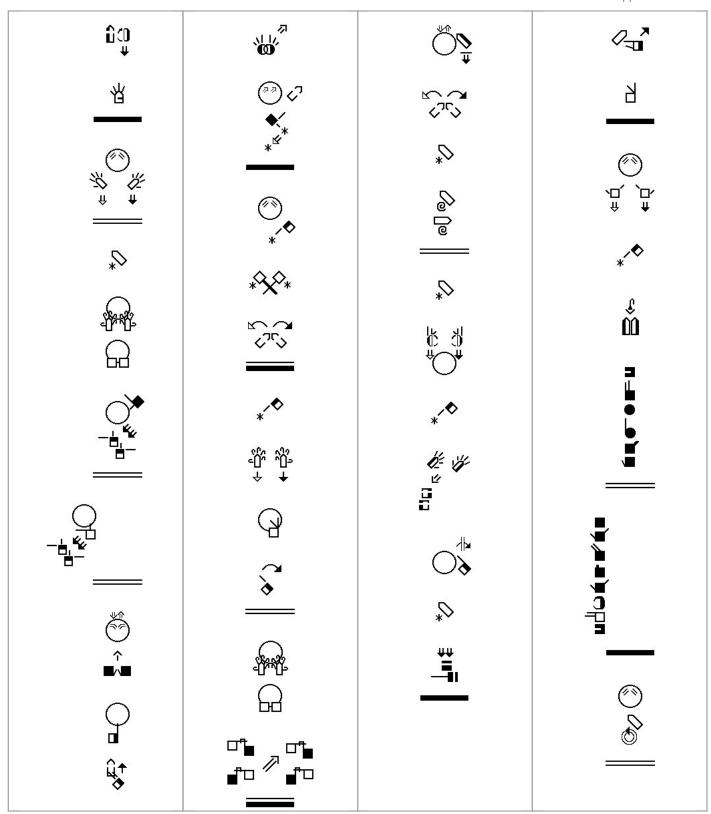


many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. Verse 19. They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. Verse 20. But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ

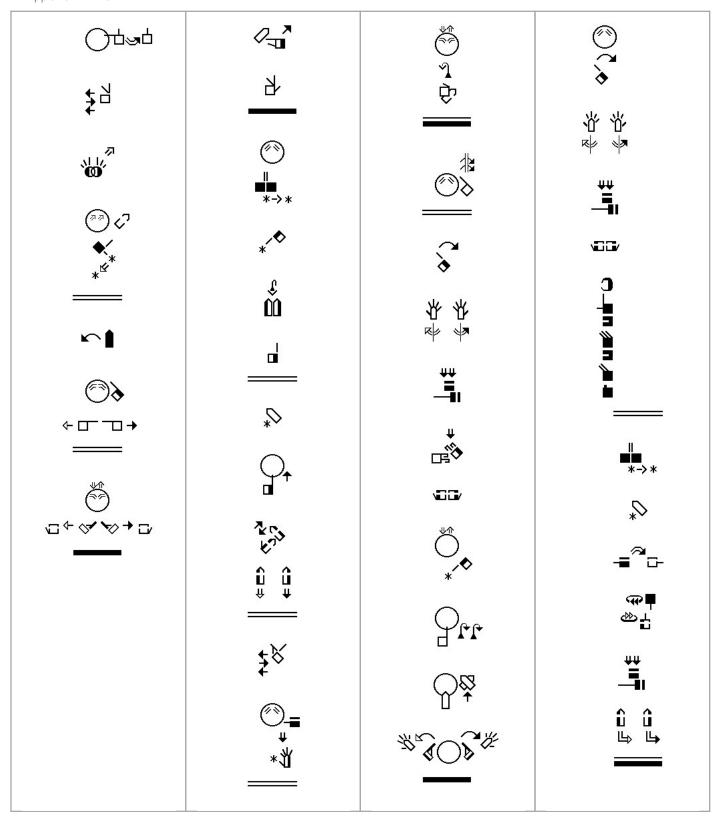
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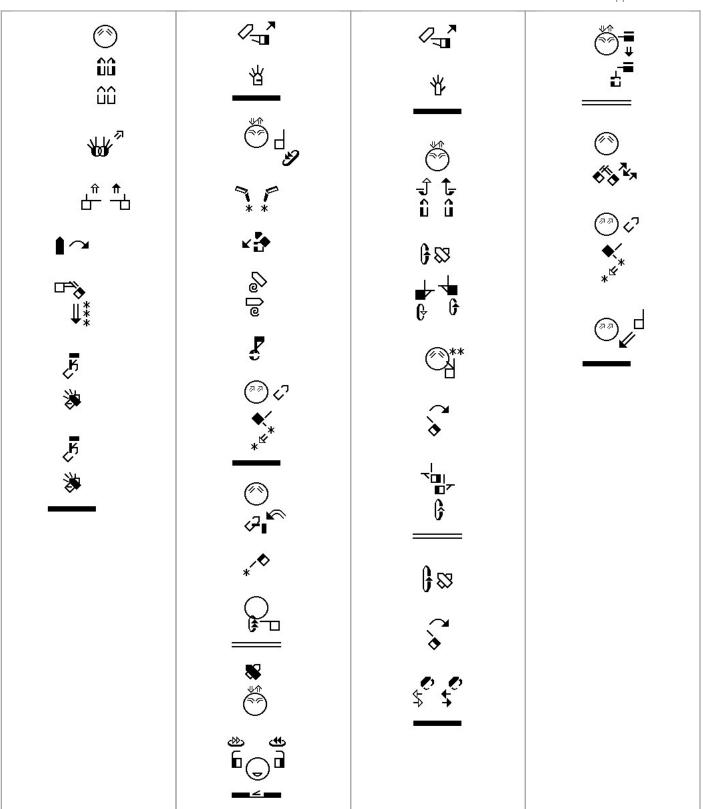


lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. Verse 21. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

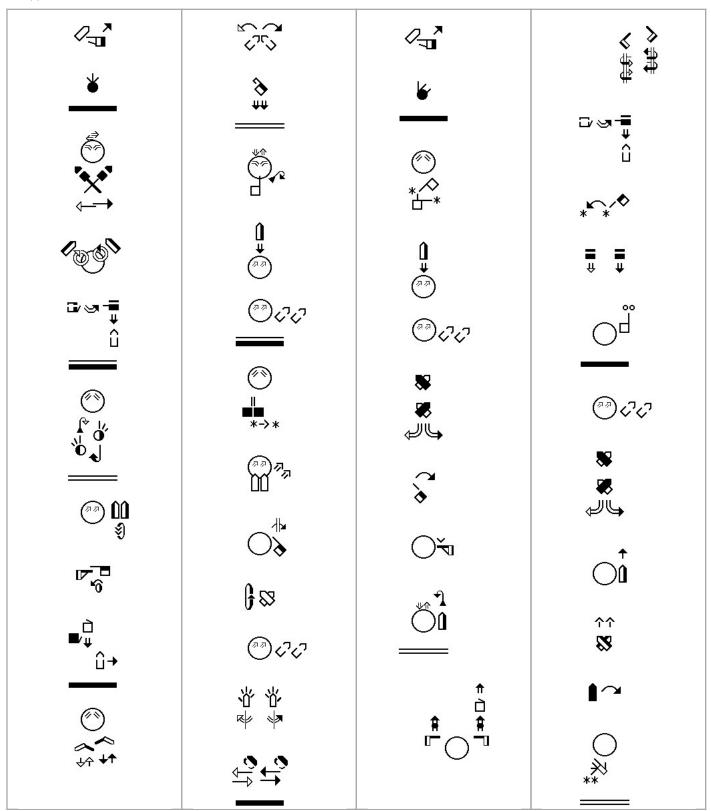


Chapter 4. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stay true to the Lord. I love you and long to see you, dear friends, for you are my joy and the crown I receive for my work. Verse 2. Now I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please,

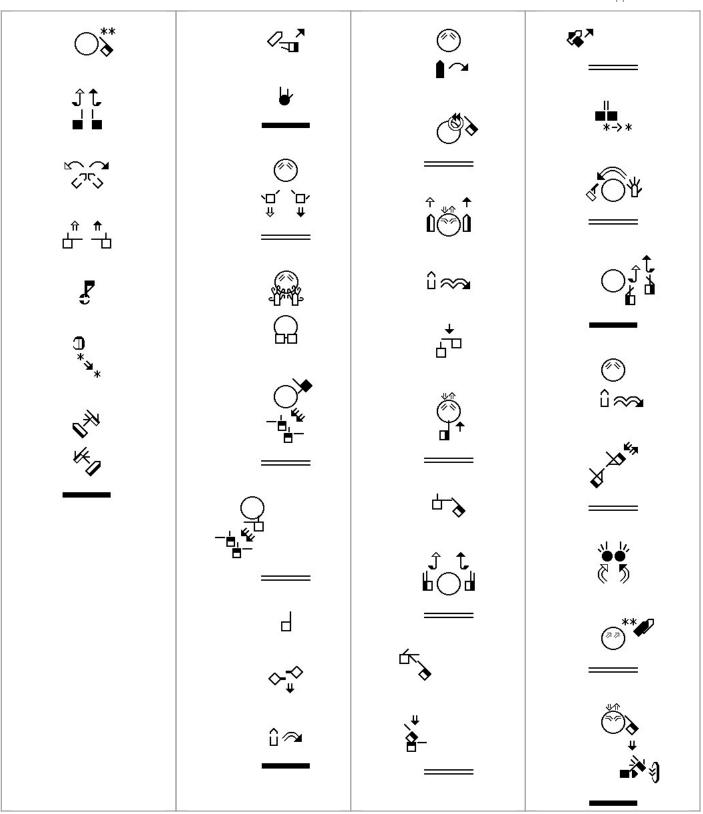




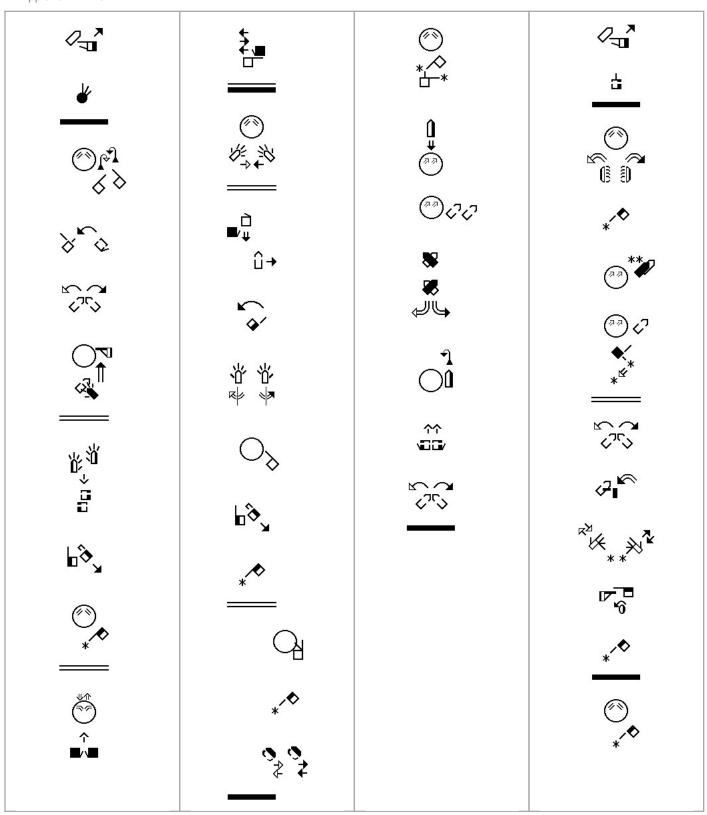
whose names are written in the Book of Life. Verse 4. Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again -- rejoice! Verse 5. Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.



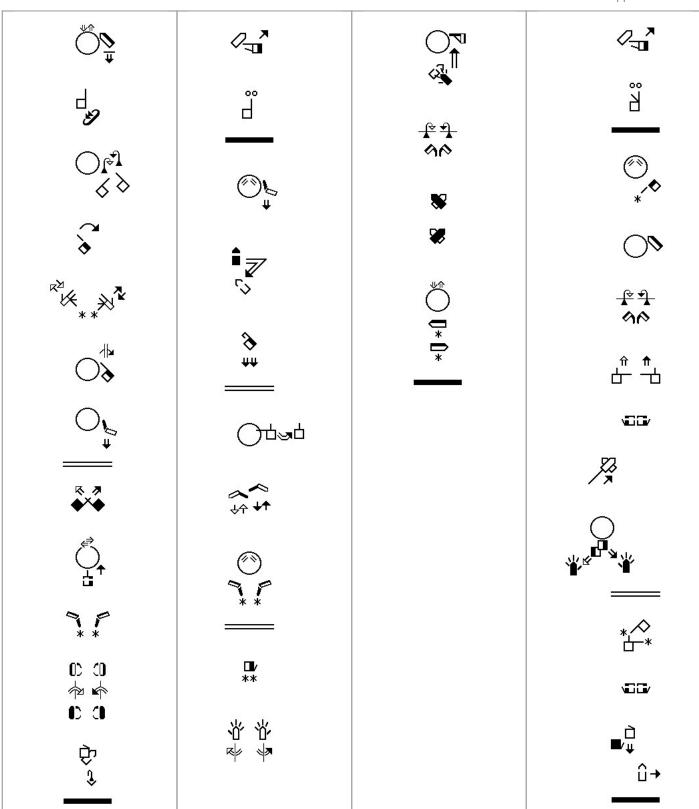
Verse 6. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Verse 7. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts NLT



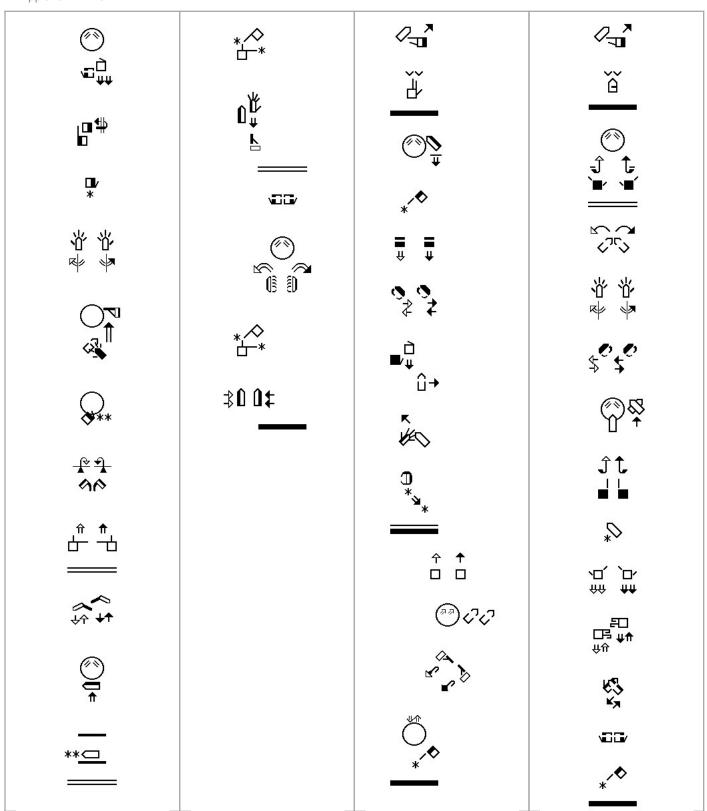
and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Verse 8. And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.



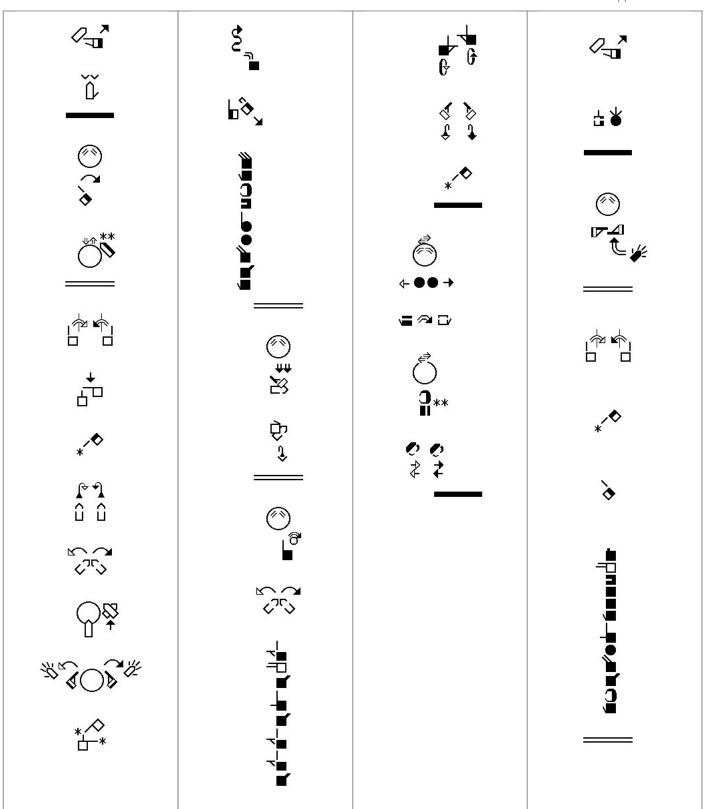
Verse 9. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me -- everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you. Verse 10. How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I



know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. Verse 11. Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. Verse 12. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. NLT

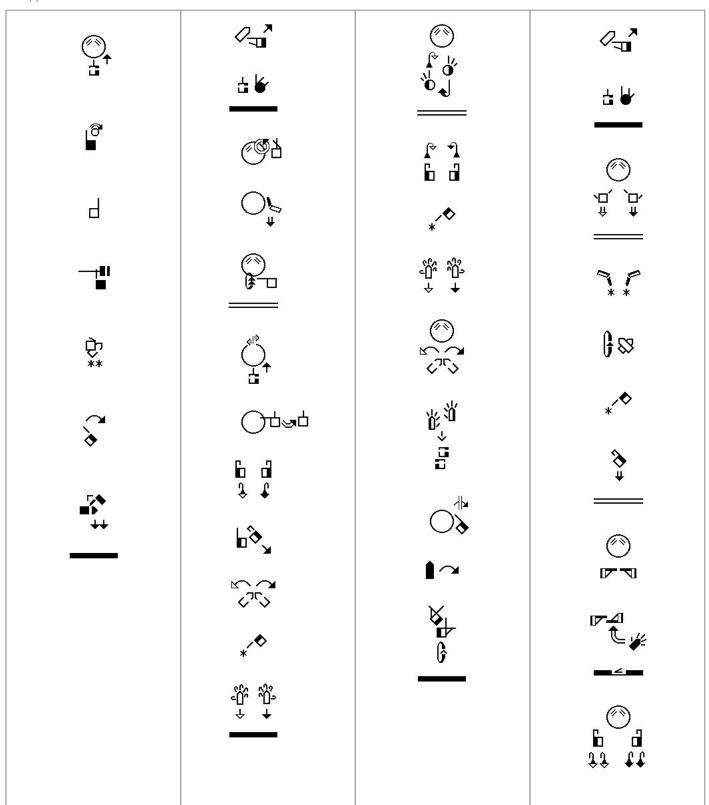


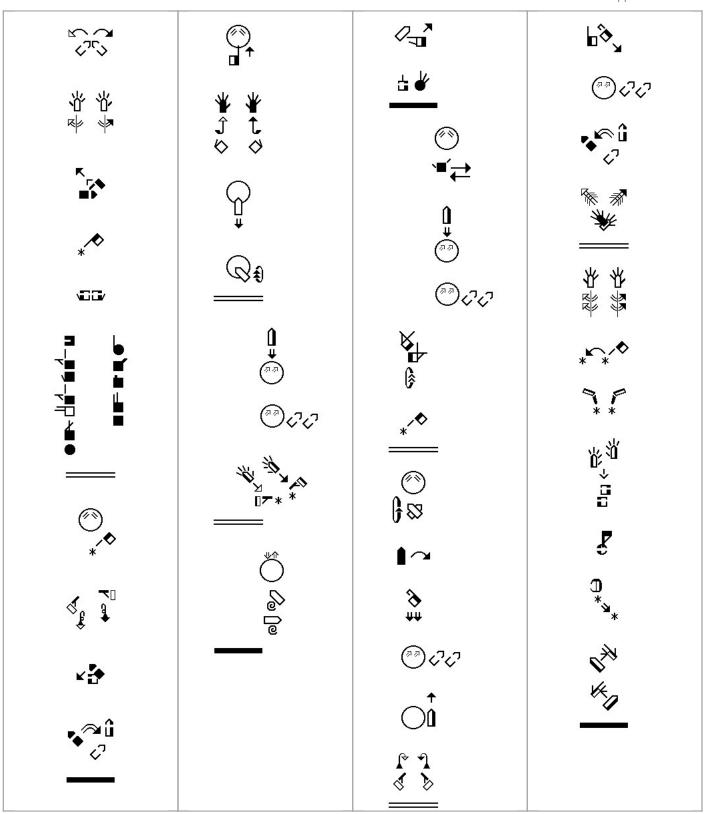
I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. Verse 13. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. Verse 14. Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty.



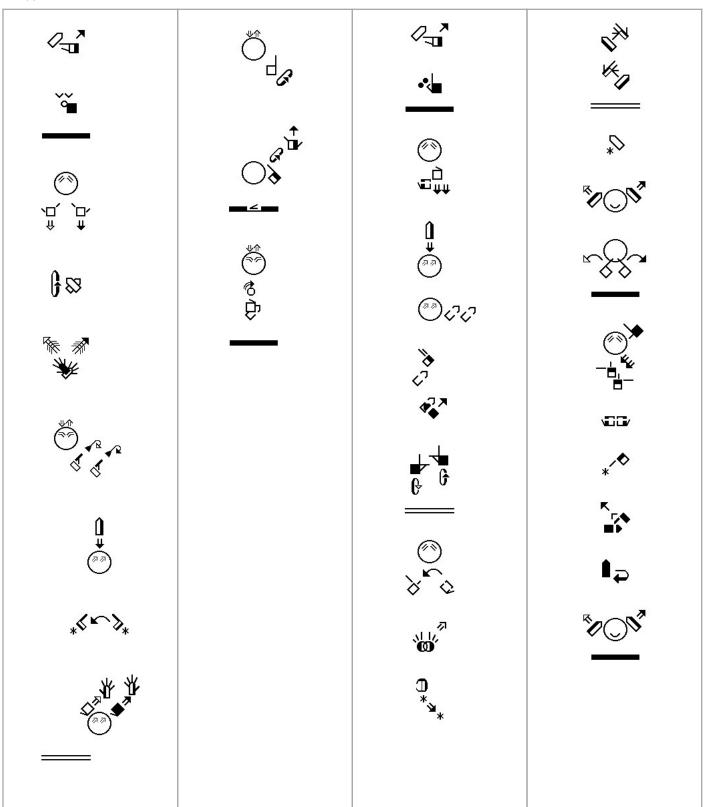
Verse 15. As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. Verse 16. Even when I was in Thessalonica

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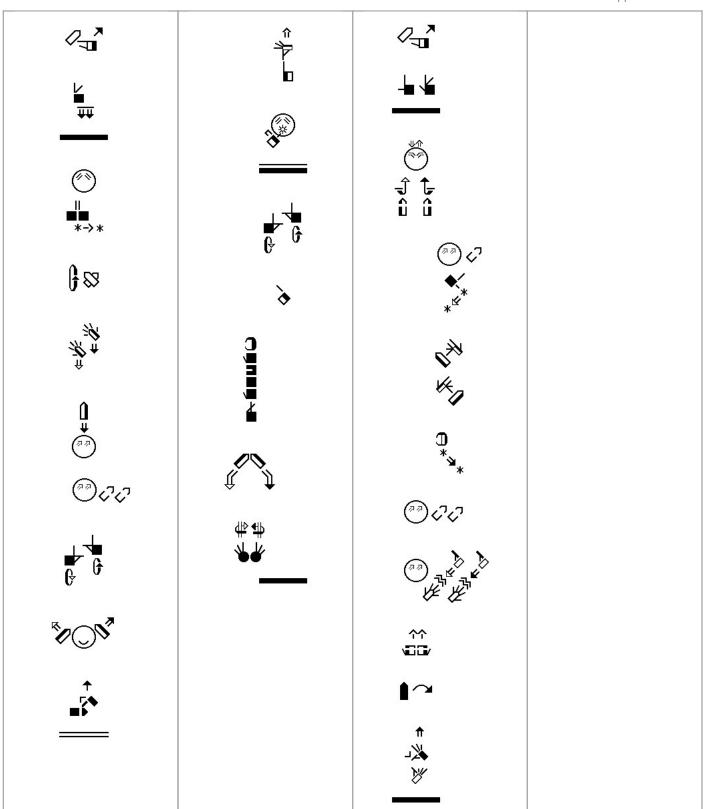




I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God. Verse 19. And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.



Verse 20. Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen. Verse 21. Give my greetings to each of God's holy people -- all who belong to Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send you their greetings.



Verse 22. And all the rest of God's people send you greetings, too, especially those in Caesar's household. Verse 23. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.