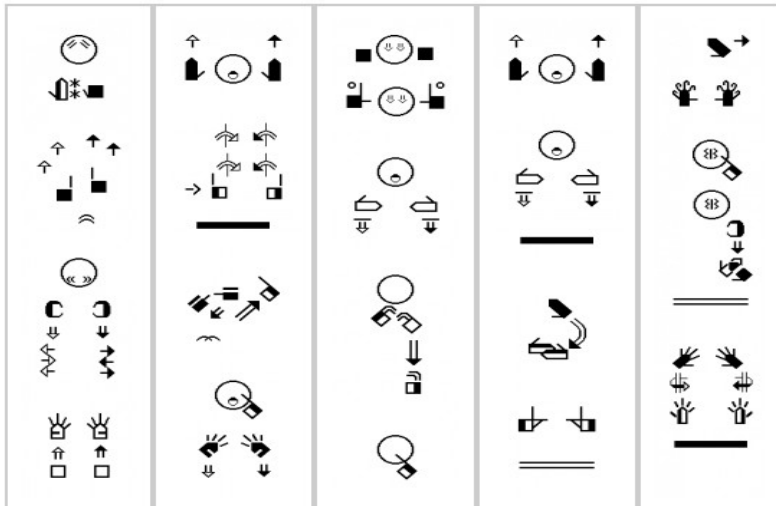


HAPPY TOGETHER

There is a requirement to be in one accord. It is not love; it is not having one person in authority; it is not uniform doctrine. It is an attitude: fear (phobos, awe) They were in awe and fear of God.

Acts 2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.



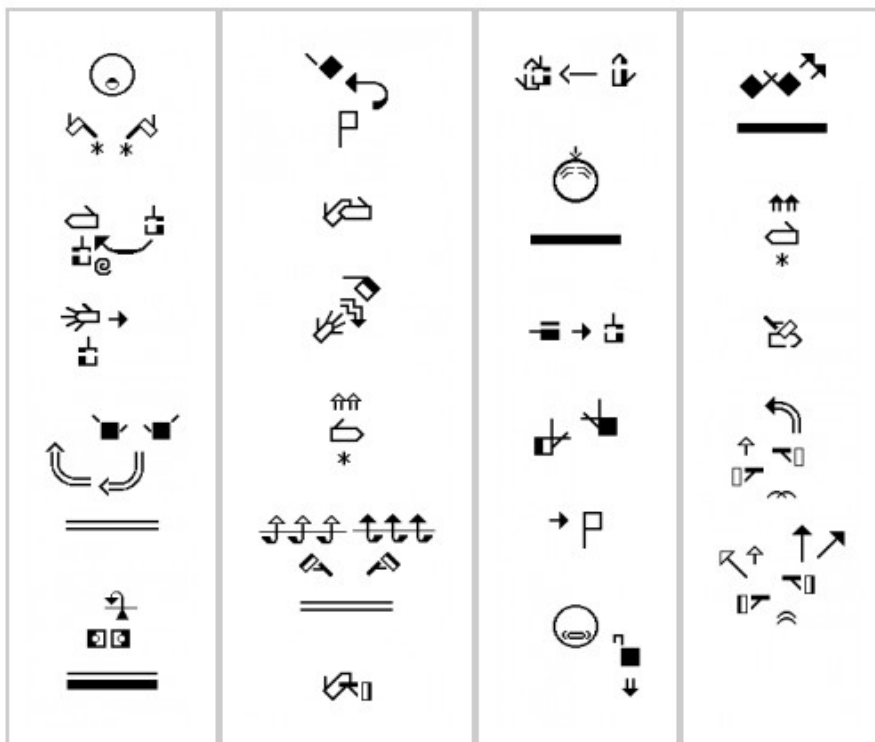
Miracles, do they still happen today? Did only the apostles perform miracles? What was the purpose of the signs and wonders? Does anyone have this power today?

What is the meaning of "soul"? Is it the same as person? Are there apostles today? Is it possible that the age of miracles is past? Finally, could the fear or awe that people displayed be because of the miraculous signs?

Why is there today such an emphasis on signs and wonders and not much interest in what Jesus said and wants His disciples to do?

Matthew 16:4 A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Jesus then left them and went away.

Acts 2:44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

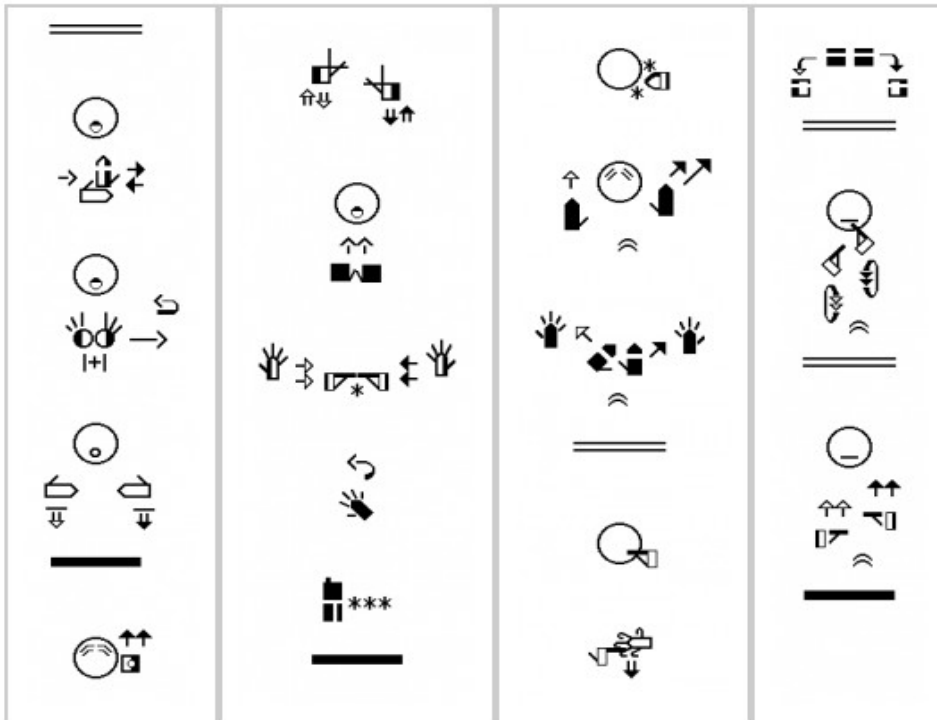


The first church experienced an extreme form of unity. Do you think this practice should be the norm for all Christians and every generation? What is meant by the phrase "had all things in common"? Why was it necessary for the first disciples to share their possessions?

What principles still apply today?

James 2:...15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself....

Acts 2:45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. (Implications: organization, management, authority, rules)

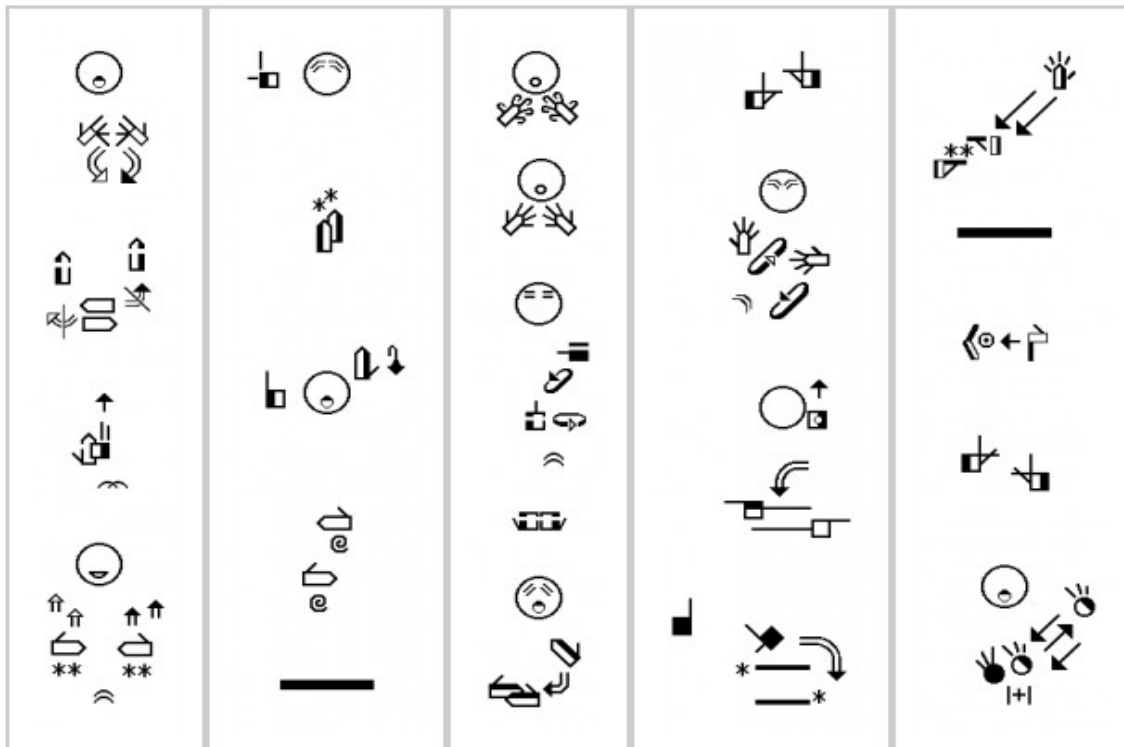


“As every man (person) had need.” This is the principle that the church must manage her business by. The church was not called to be a hand out center but an institution which teaches people to be responsible.

Romans 4:5 does not apply here but instead:

2 Thess. 3:10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

Acts 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.



Another principle we can learn is that the church meets the “needs” of her people and these needs are provided from the resources of other believers. Those Christians paid Roman taxes, walked on Roman roads and were protected by Roman armies but many other needs the church provided for.

Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.