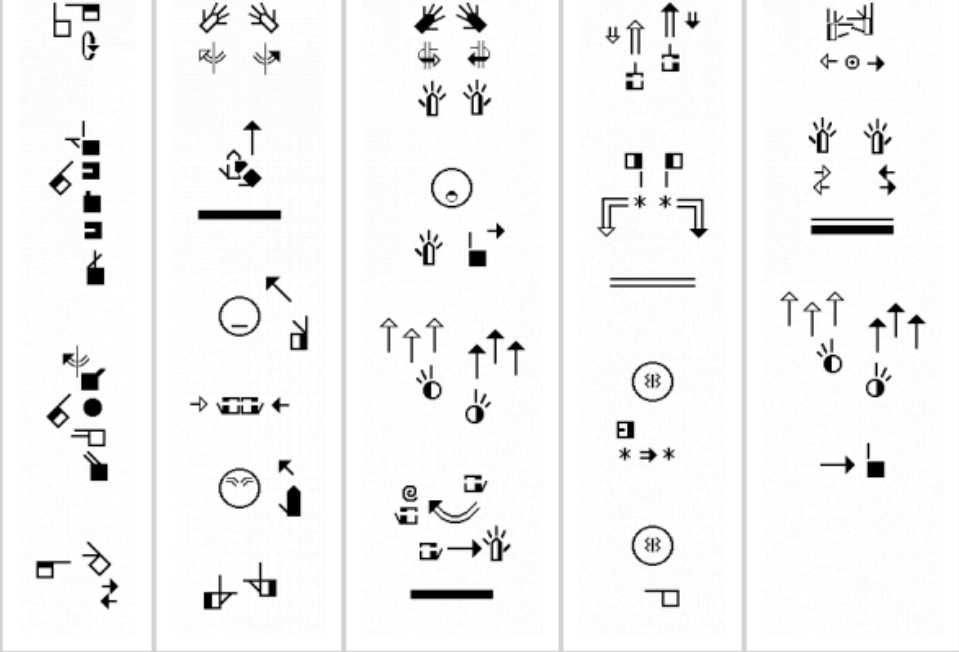
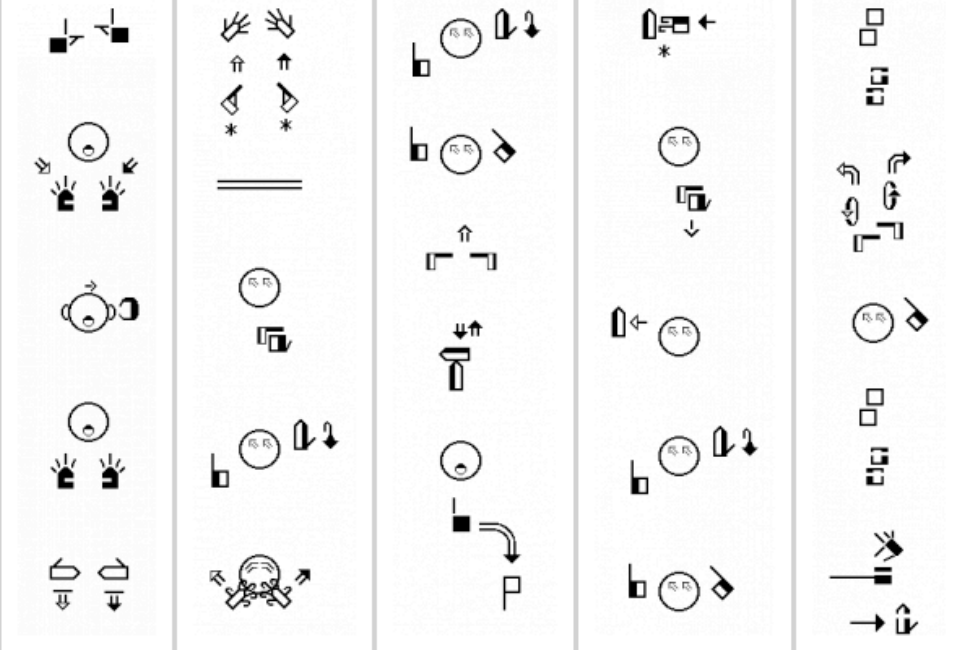


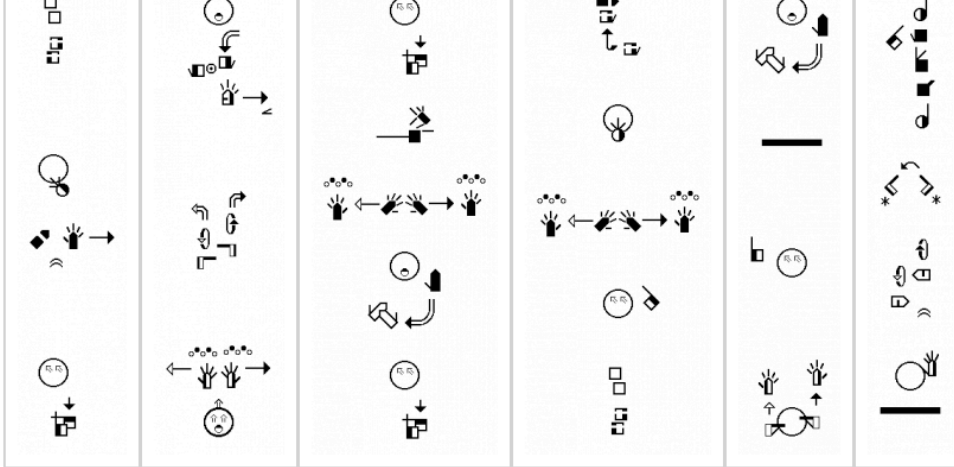
Acts 04_23-26a



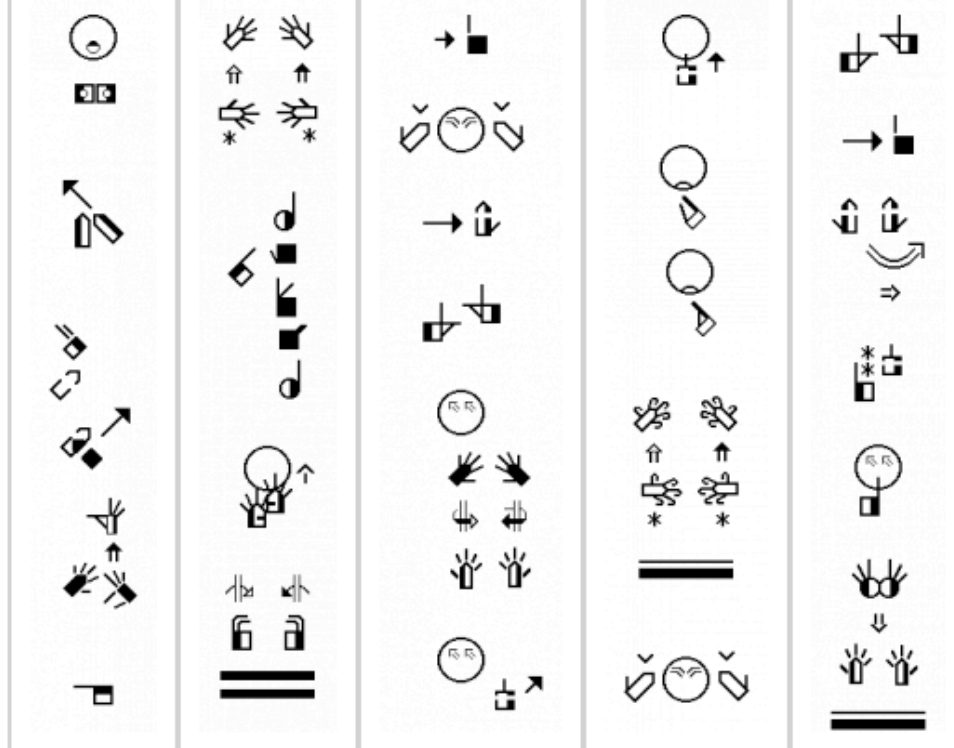
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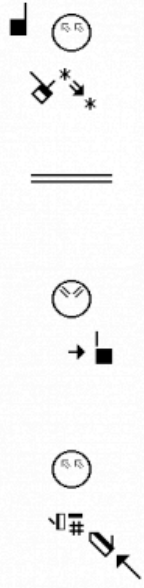
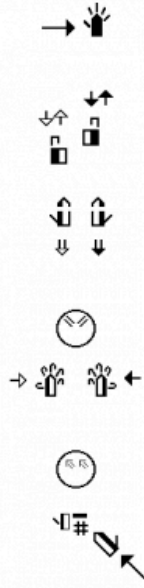
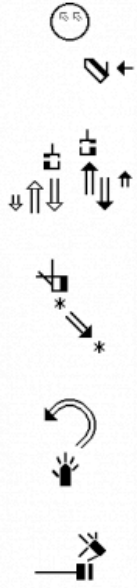
Acts 04_23-26c



Acts 04_23-26d



Acts 04_23-26e



THE REPORT (TESTIMONY)

Accountability should be understood as a good thing, a thing not to avoided. It keeps leaders focused and congregations responsible for the work of the kingdom of God. The first Christians understood this as a leadership structure developed in the Church. No longer accountable to the Jewish church those first Christians became accountable directly to God and each other.

Leaders that report back to the congregation are accountable.

Acts 4:23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

Accountability and mutual support energized the early church. The Apostles were excited about sharing with the others in their company about how God was using them. The Jewish leaders had a closed door meeting. The Christians were very open with each other.

The congregation supported their leaders in God's work.

24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

One accord, united prayer and teamwork pushed the gospel message further out. One voice, one God, and one clear message, brought God's confirmation.

There can be no accord without the authority of Scripture.

25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

This company saw recent events a fulfillment of prophecy. Psalm 2 is Messianic. Opposition from the world and worldly authorities should be expected. Their mutual understanding of this Scripture united them and confirmed that they were in the will of God.

When people want others to follow them, they must show what they are following; otherwise there will be confusion, disagreement, and mission failure.

Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and the Apostles led the early church.

26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

As far as we can see in Scripture everyone held "stock" in the company most of the decisions were arrived at by triple confirmation and consensus.

Our Bible studies are not meant to manipulate Scripture to fit our ideas but to study Biblical patterns, truths, principles, law, etc., and to implement them in our time and our situations.

This quotation teaches us that it is not us that worldly authorities oppose but the LORD and His Christ. We should not expect, rely on, or wait for the permission of any authority to share the message of Jesus Christ, except God.