

NOT A JONAH

When God told Jonah to preach to his enemies he went the other way. Ananias obeyed. Jonah told God he wouldn't; Moses told God he couldn't; Ananias told God he shouldn't, but they all decided to obey God's call.

Chosen

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

God chooses people for special tasks. It was Ananias' duty to support Saul. It is a blessing to help a person anointed by the Lord. Let us serve God under those who are willing to be God's servants.

Purpose

16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Saul's purpose was to spread the name of Jesus, not to make Ananias or the other disciples happy. When a person serves God's purposes they are most satisfied.

Filled

17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Spirit empowers God's servants to do their work. Having the baptism in the Holy Spirit compared to mere water baptism is like the difference between a hand saw and a power saw.

Baptized

18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

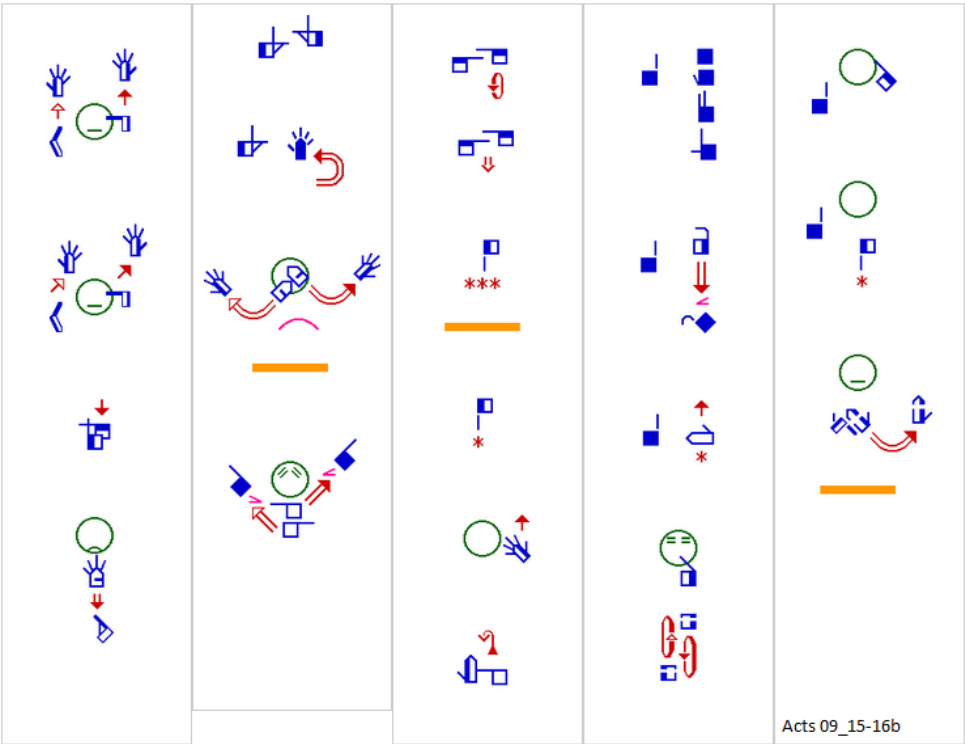
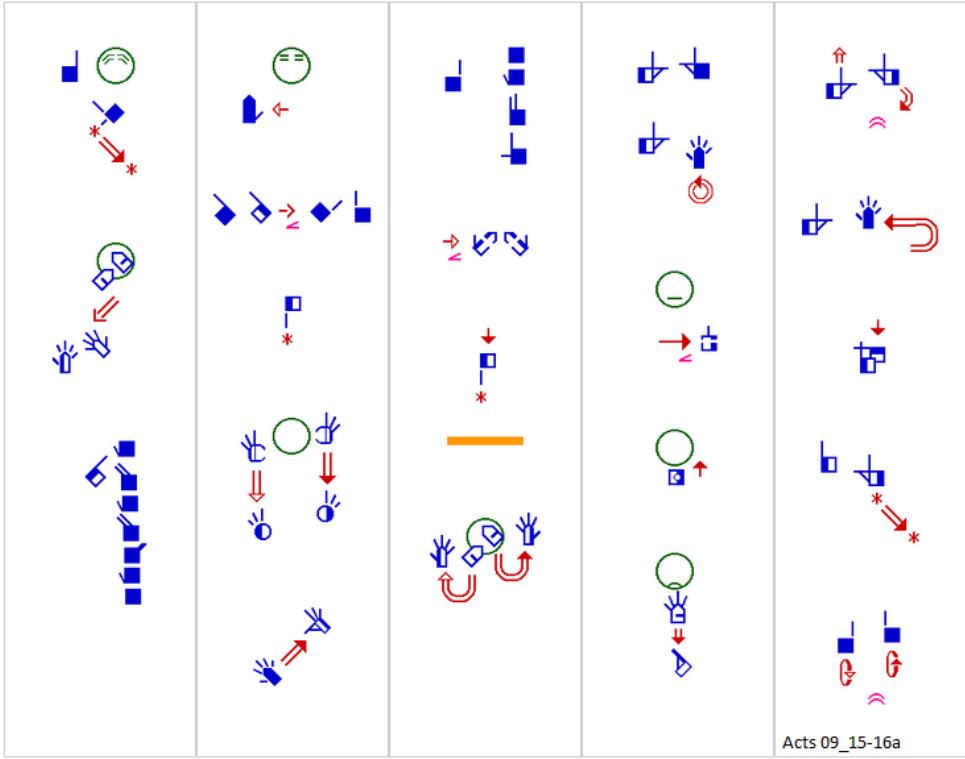
Every disciple of Christ must be baptized showing their identification with Christ and the Church.

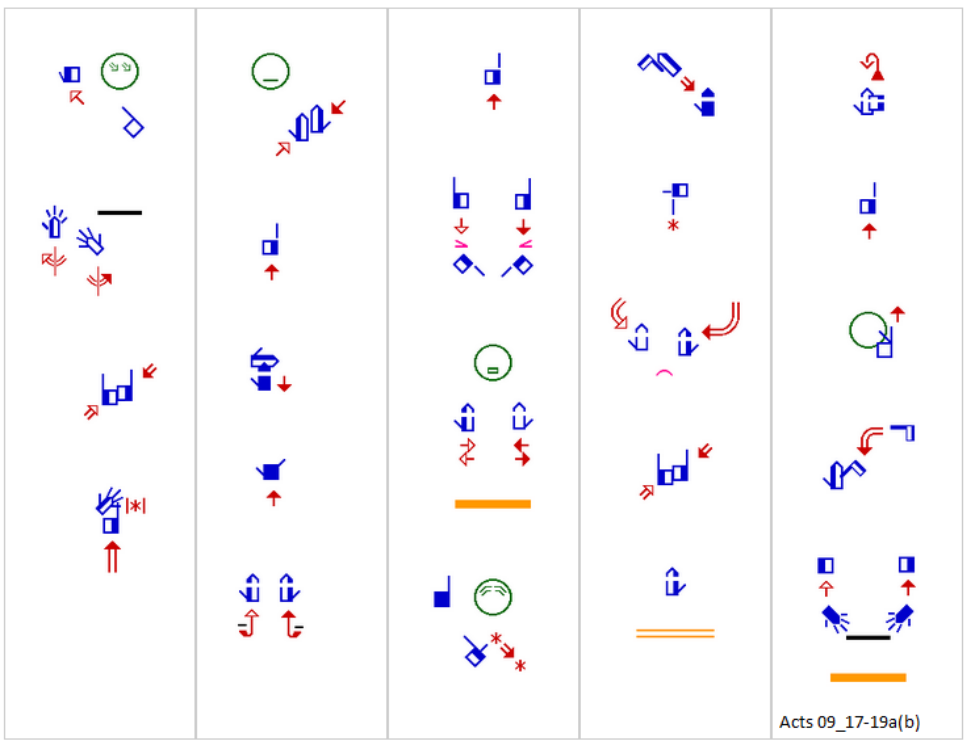
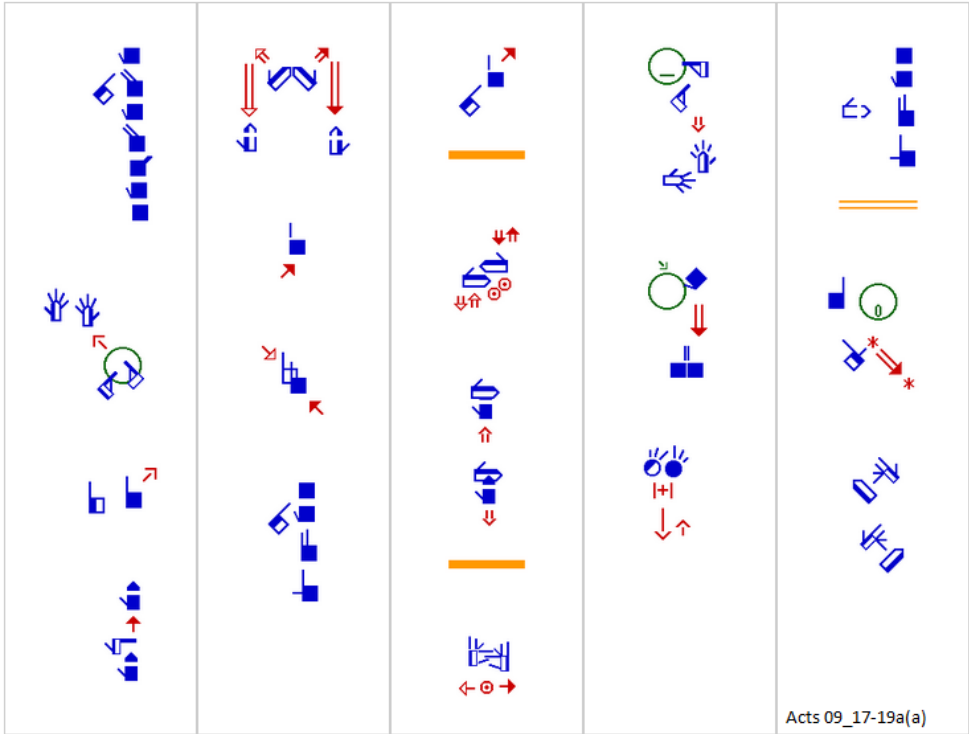
Discipled

19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

The last step in becoming a Christian is submission to the body of Christ. Allowing oneself to be taught and governed by other believers is a sign of maturity.

Let us not behave like Jonah, running from the will of God, but behave like Ananias and be a willing servant to further God's purposes. Let us seek to be fully mature Christians: that the spread of the gospel would be our purpose, that we would support those chosen by God, that we would be baptized, filled with the Spirit, and discipled by the Church.





Acts 09_17-19a(c)				

Acts 09_17-19a(d)			