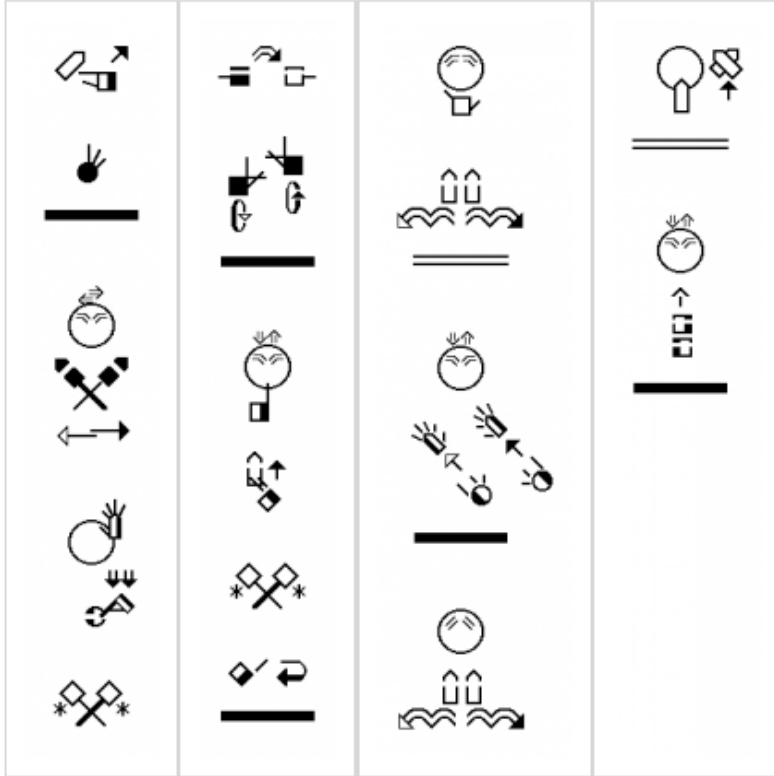


WALKING IN THE SPIRIT IS PURPOSEFUL ACTION

Romans 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

9. Don't pretend love other people. Really honestly love them. Wrong things, hate. Things good support.

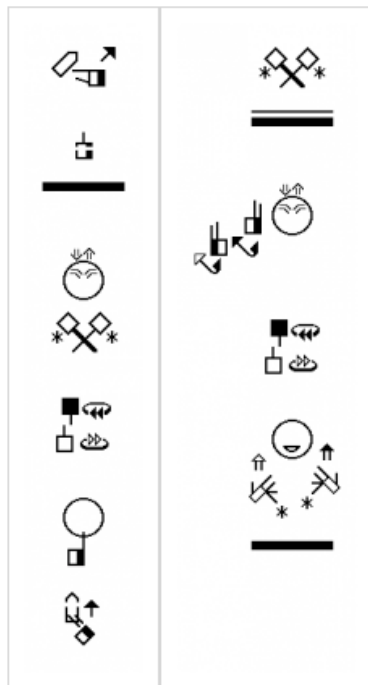


One of the most difficult challenges for Christians is sincerity. We are tempted not to love because we do not feel it. Sincerity has to with honest motivations. We do what is right because we want to please God. Insincerity is when a person appears to be pleasing God but really his motivation is to gain something for himself.

Often a person will excuse himself from doing something right and good because of some other obligation. We usually do not have to choose one good thing over another, but should do both. Don't make allowances to please the flesh. **Ro. 13:14**

10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

10. Love each other sincerely love. Honor each other feelings.



Being judgmental is not spirituality. Being sensitive, considerate, respectful, honest and sincere is. The prove of spirituality is where you put yourself on your priority list.

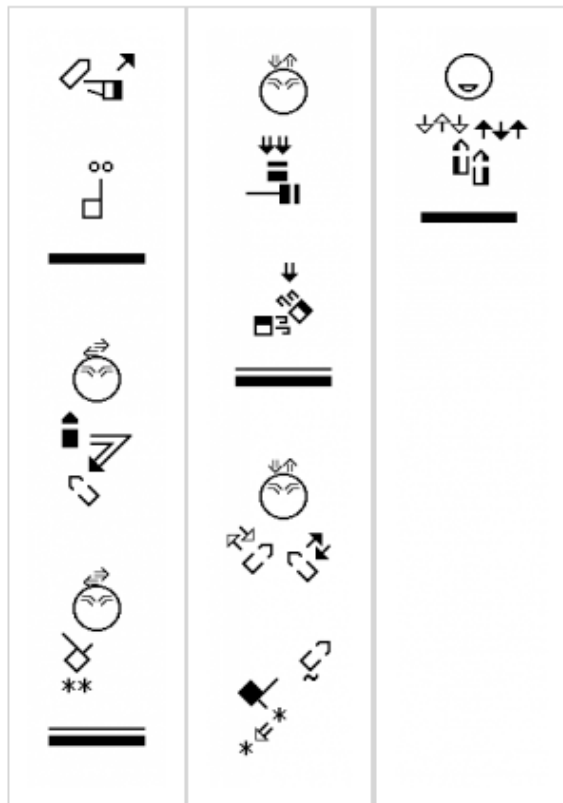
Don't try to justify your lack of affection by another person's behavior. Following Jesus is not waiting until your feelings change but deciding to do what God wants.

Christianity is not a rule religion but a relationship religion. God will judge us by one rule: Did we love one another? **John 15:17**

This is an easy command and a hard command simultaneously. It is easy to understand; yet it is always a challenge to do. We must remember love is the most powerful grace we have been given.

11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

11. Never lazy. Work hard. Serve Lord enthusiastically.



Laziness is our enemy. The moment we stop using a muscle is the moment atrophy begins. The moment we stop using our spiritual abilities they begin to deteriorate. A runner that does not run regularly cannot run fast when he needs to.

Business is what we do: our job, our home, our family, and our church work. We were designed to work. Work is not evil.

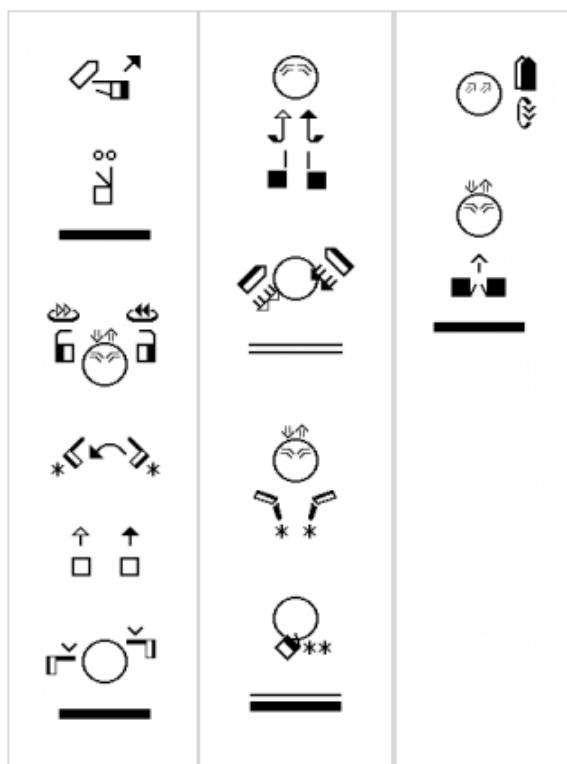
Ge. 2:15 Heaven will be filled with workful activity, and we will have spiritual bodies to for working.

There is a book entitled, "Talent is Overrated." Success is more the result of hard work than talent.

Serving is our business, not playing, not ruling, not sleeping, but finding more ways to serve God and His family.

12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

13. Celebrate our strong hope, during trouble, have patience. Prayer continually.



Hope, tribulation, and prayer: we have a choice in how we react to life's issues. Our hope cannot be in this life alone. The most "successful" people end up very disappointed. Thinking about heaven is being realistic. We have no guarantee of a life without trouble and challenges. Hope pulls us through.

All people must face challenges. We can try to escape; we can try to overcome in our own strength, or we can be patient that God will help us through.

The thing about prayer is that it does not usually work instantly, but we are to learn to pray instantly. Even the best of believers forget to pray.

Joshua 9:14