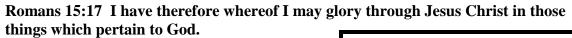
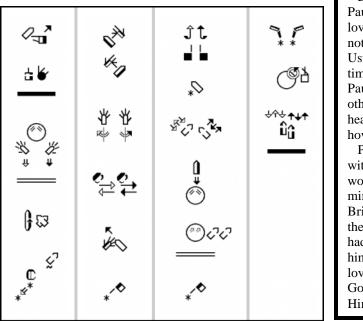
## **ENTHUSIASTIC**





Enthusiasm, where do we get it from? Paul got it from doing something he loved to do. A good personnel manager notes what a person does as an hobby. Usually what people do on their free time is what they are enthusiastic about. Paul enjoyed being used of God. All other pleasures have no lasting value. In heaven much conversation will be about how God used our lives for His glory.

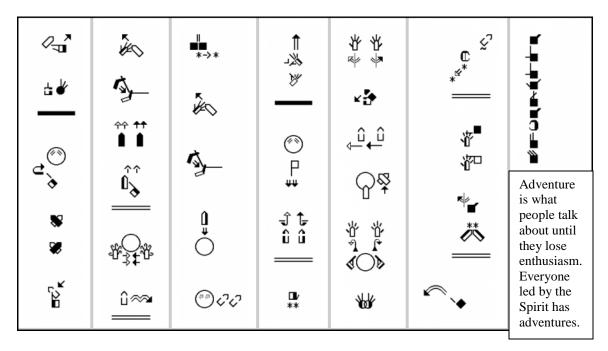
Paul could not work enthusiastically without being enthusiastic about his work (job). And what was his job, his ministry, his calling, his enthusiasm? Bringing people to God through sharing the gospel. He boasted about what God had done; he rejoiced that God had used him. Remember Sunday? God not only loved sinners but He also used them. God wants to use us to bring people to Him.

Romans 15:18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed,

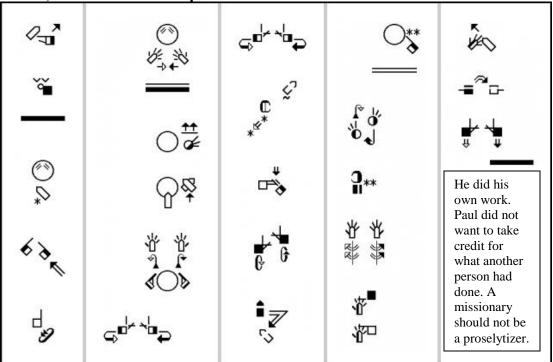
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There can be no obedience if there is no preaching to become obedient.

Romans 15:19 Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

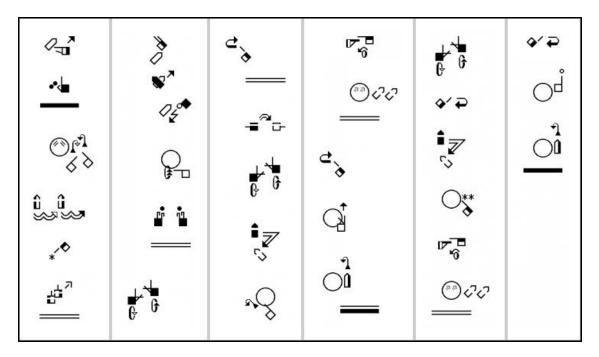


Romans 15:20 Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:



Many ministries today stress how they are better than another ministry. Paul did not build his churches from the ministry of other churches. Don't shop for the best church, instead go to a church where you can serve. Don't be a "jumper;" be faithful where you are.

Romans 15:21 But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand.



The Hearing deaf and the deaf Deaf; the Seeing blind and the blind Blind need to know. Hearing is no benefit in a world without sound. Sight is no benefit in a world without light. The gospel is light to all the blind; it is a message for all the people who have never heard.

The principle here is that every disciple's method is to find the un-reached, the unsaved, and not to compete with other Christians in their work. So much hurt and jealousy could be avoided if Christians refused to build their churches at the expense of other churches. That kind of work only divides the body of Christ, causes hurt feelings, and wastes energy that could be used to really grow the kingdom of God. What if we sent people back to their churches when they have a problem and concentrated on reaching the Lost? Pulling people from other churches is encouraging spiritual adultery. Would you tell a person to leave their spouse because you know of someone better, more pretty, more handsome, etc.? No, we encourage people to stay with their spouse, even though they are having a hard time.

Evil and selfish people take advantage of this competition in the Christian world. Resources are wasted on people who have no intention of obeying God but only want to please themselves. "Cry baby" Christians who think they need to be pleased instead of God. Unspiritual pastors and leaders who allow themselves to be vulnerable to flirtations of un-submissive "church hoppers" do great damage to the kingdom of God.

Let us wake up to Paul's method; let us invade the darkness instead of other people's homes. We will talk with enthusiasm when we meet in heaven about how the Holy Spirit helped us to love each other, work together, and over-power the kingdom of darkness. Instead of talking about how my pastor or my church is better than yours we will preach to lost people and show them the way to salvation and help them have the confidence that Jesus Christ is way, the truth, and life. That is an adventure we all can be enthusiastic about. Enough urban blight, let's rebuild our city.