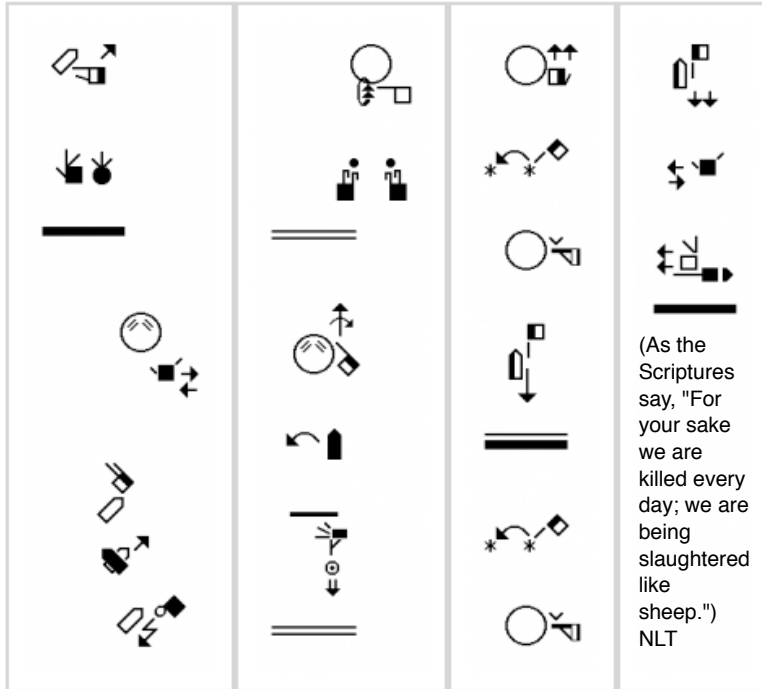


WHAT'S MORE THAN A CONQUEROR?¹

Romans 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

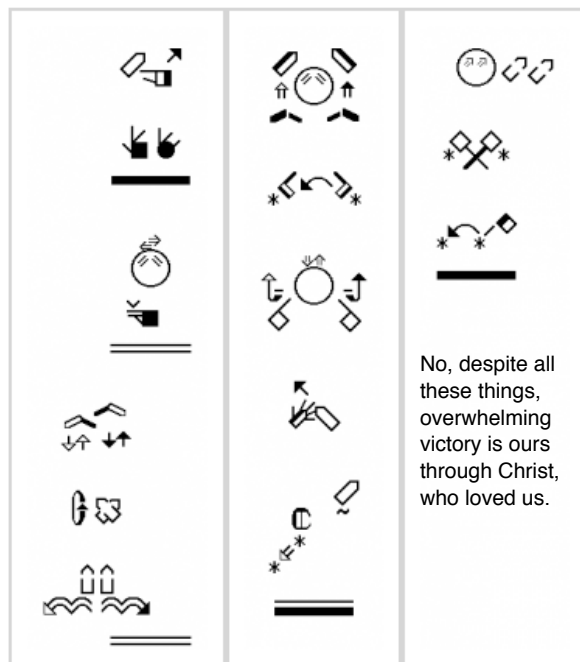


I liked Romans 8 until I got to this passage. I want to know the easy way. But there is no easy way.

Paul wrote from experience both personal and corporate. He wrote about what has been the experience of evangelists, missionaries, and Christians throughout the centuries. (Mt 10:28) Often Christians have paid the ultimate cost of discipleship: martyrdom.

And why should we be surprised? Patriots have laid down their lives; parents have laid down their lives. Heroes are defined by their sacrifices. Our Lord has not changed His prices. The cost of discipleship is still all. (Luke 14:33)

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.



At least we are not required to do this alone. God promises to be with us, to strengthen us and to love us. As a soldier should never think the battle is his alone but that the whole nation is behind him. So, are the disciples of Christ. All of heaven is supporting the church. (2Kings 6:17)

When Jesus came to this world, He came to danger. When we preach His message, we face all kinds of danger, even possible death.

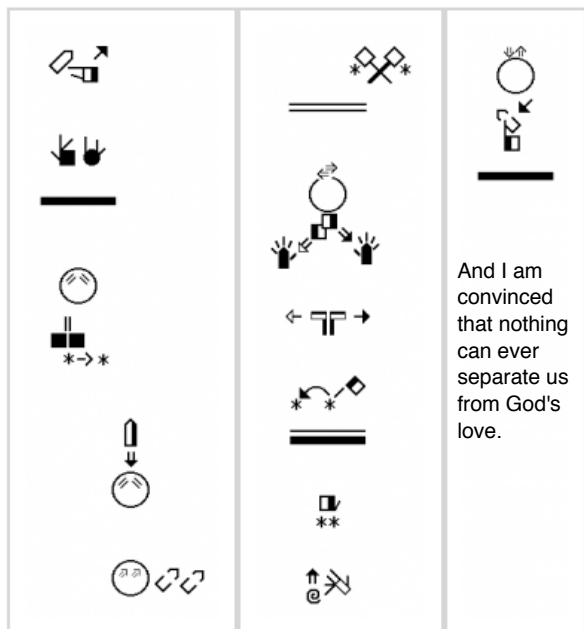
For me to ask you to make such a sacrifice is totally audacious, except it is not me; it is the Lord. And if I were not to warn you I would be a deceiver.

God is not ashamed to expect such faith on our part because of the victory His love guarantees.

(Did you know that the U. S. Government issued spy plane pilots poison pills?) That is how important the security of our government is.)

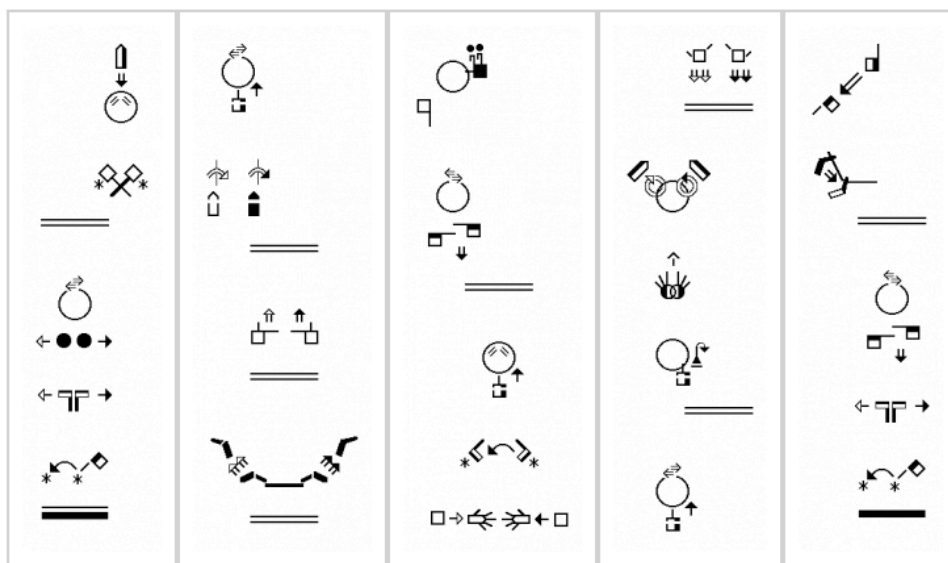
¹ Romans 8:36

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,



Love has long arms, it can reach across battlefields; it can reach from heaven to earth. It is not a powerless abstract idea, but the reason God does what he does. (1John 4:8) Faith is the belief that God's love will overcome every obstacle in our lives. Paul lists every possible enemy, adversary, resistance, or trouble that can come against the church. And like a devoted husband that will give all he has for his beloved wife, Jesus gave all He had to save His Church. Christ's love will strengthen us. We will survive; we will conquer; we will more than conquer.

Just like the United States more than conquered Germany and Japan. These two former enemies were made greater than they had ever been, and also were made staunch allies of the U. S. A. We who were enemies of God have become His very children and joint heirs with Christ.

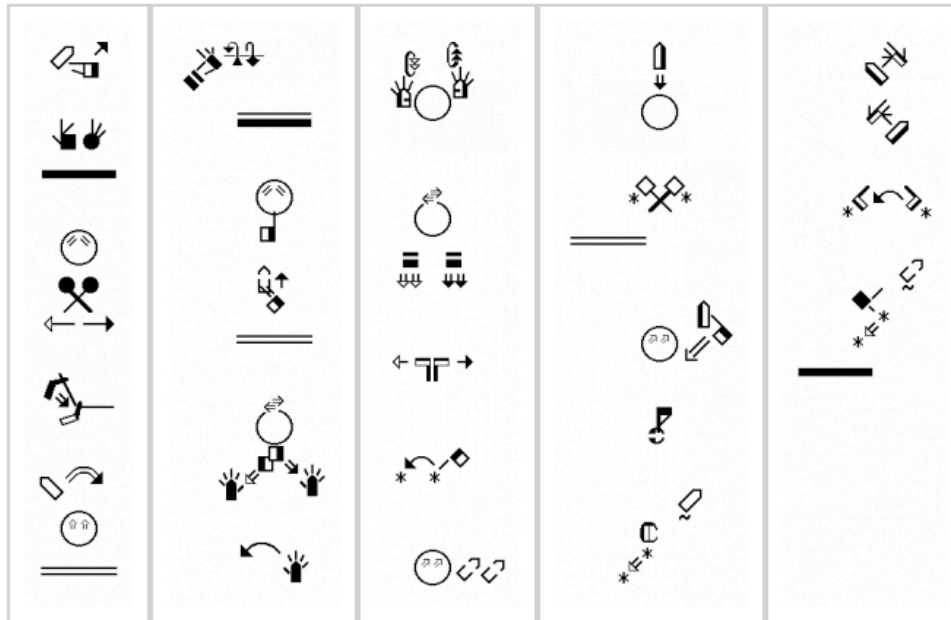


Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow -- not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

Separation, is something troubles make us feel, but they are not the unseen reality. When your family is against you, when people try to kill you, when the government makes laws against you, etc., when all that happens, it does not mean God is against you. (Mt 24:9) The evidence of God's love has already been demonstrated when Jesus gave His life for the salvation of the world. (John 20:29)

Christian, if you are ever alone, separated from all that you love, this is the final, ultimate, and strongest promise you can rely on. You can say it over and over to all the powers that come against you, and ultimately Christ will deliver you.

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



No power in the sky above or in the earth below -- indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Now you have to wonder, why is the love of God the thing to be concerned about? Why not you'll never go hungry, or why not say demons cannot hurt you, or all of your prayers will be answered? Why does Paul warn them that the worst of all possible things might happen to the Christians while they are on the earth?

For one thing, that is exactly what has happened to us, not all of us most the time, but some of us all the time. Let us not blame other believers for their troubles, brought on by their Christian lifestyles, but be understanding. (Heb 11:37)

Secondly, I think Paul is warning Christ's disciples and encouraging them, considering the extreme persecutions many of them were suffering. God loves you; the world don't. (Psalm 17:14, John 15:18)

A certain admiral went on an expedition to the South Pole. They failed and the crew had to wait for months until the admiral returned with help. He returned. How much more can we be confident that our Lord will return for us.

In conclusion: we must understand that love is not what happens to us but what happened for us: the cross. What happens to us, God will use it for our benefit.

Deafness: God can make something good out of it. Paul, prison: God made part of the Bible. Joseph: persecution, God saved a nation. Peter, tortured to death: God built the church. Your situation: God can make you greater because of it. Praise God!