

IMITATORS & EXAMPLES

A Series in 1 Thessalonians



Scripture Reading:

1 THESSALONIANS

5:19-28





God gives us his Spirit to
transform us completely.

CONCLUDING EXHORTATIONS

Last week:

1. Recognize leaders
2. Serve others' true needs
3. Deliver on godliness

This week:

1. Accept the work of the Spirit
2. Embrace God's purpose for yourself

1. THE SPIRIT MINISTERS THROUGH OTHERS

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

Do not quench the Spirit; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.

"Don't quench the Spirit..."

Like fire, the Spirit is more powerful than us, but we can smother his effects if we smother him.



Key example:

"Don't treat prophecies with contempt..."

What do you do?

Test everything.

Hold to the good.

Avoid every kind of evil.

APPLICATION:

1. Practically and in attitude accept that the Spirit works through people.
2. Don't quench the Spirit's work.
3. Grow in discernment.
4. Learn from the church and Elders.

2. EMBRACE GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOURSELF

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you wholly and completely. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

KEY IDEAS:

"Sanctify"

"Wholly and completely"

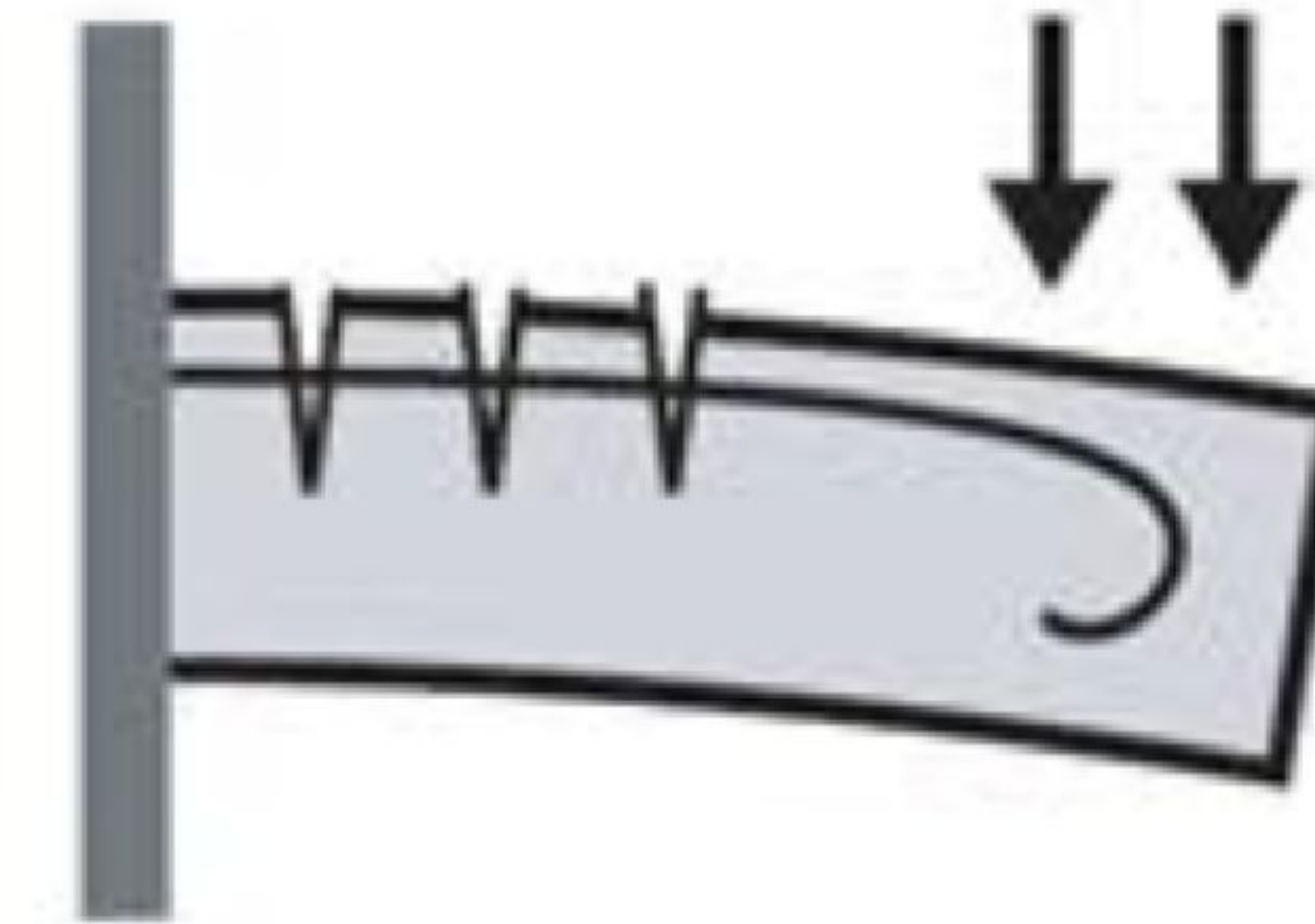
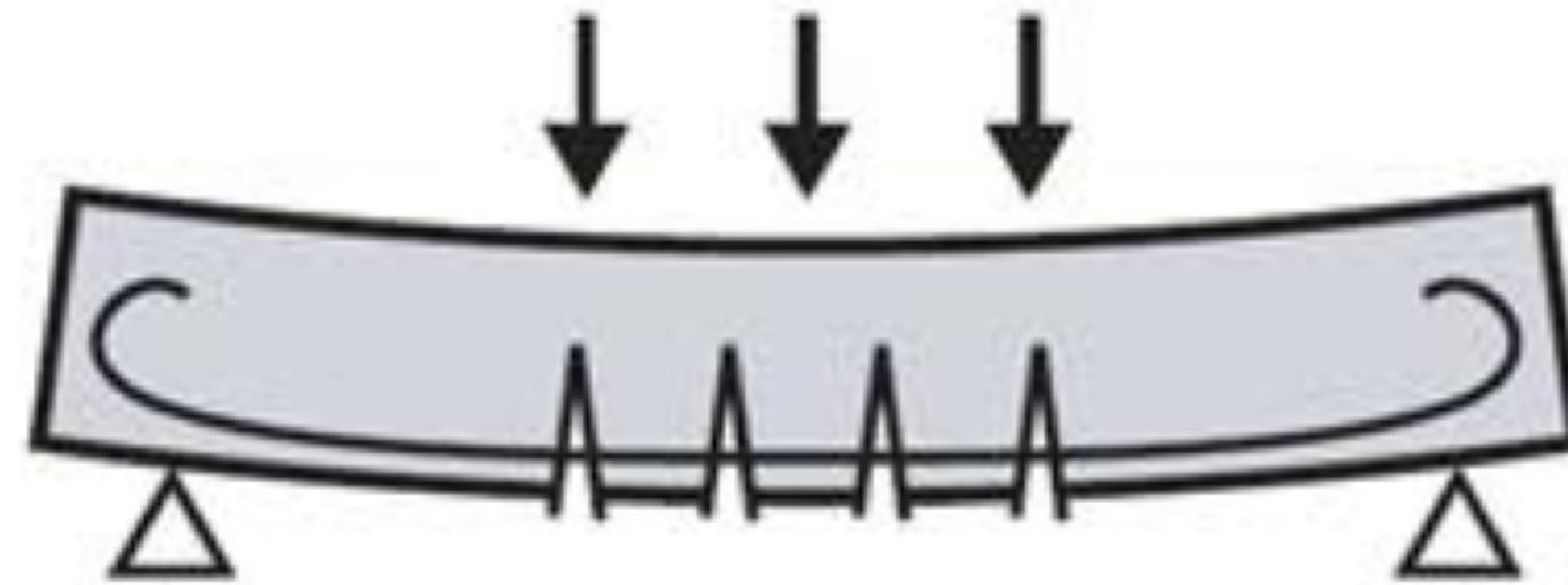
"Kept blameless"

"Completely"

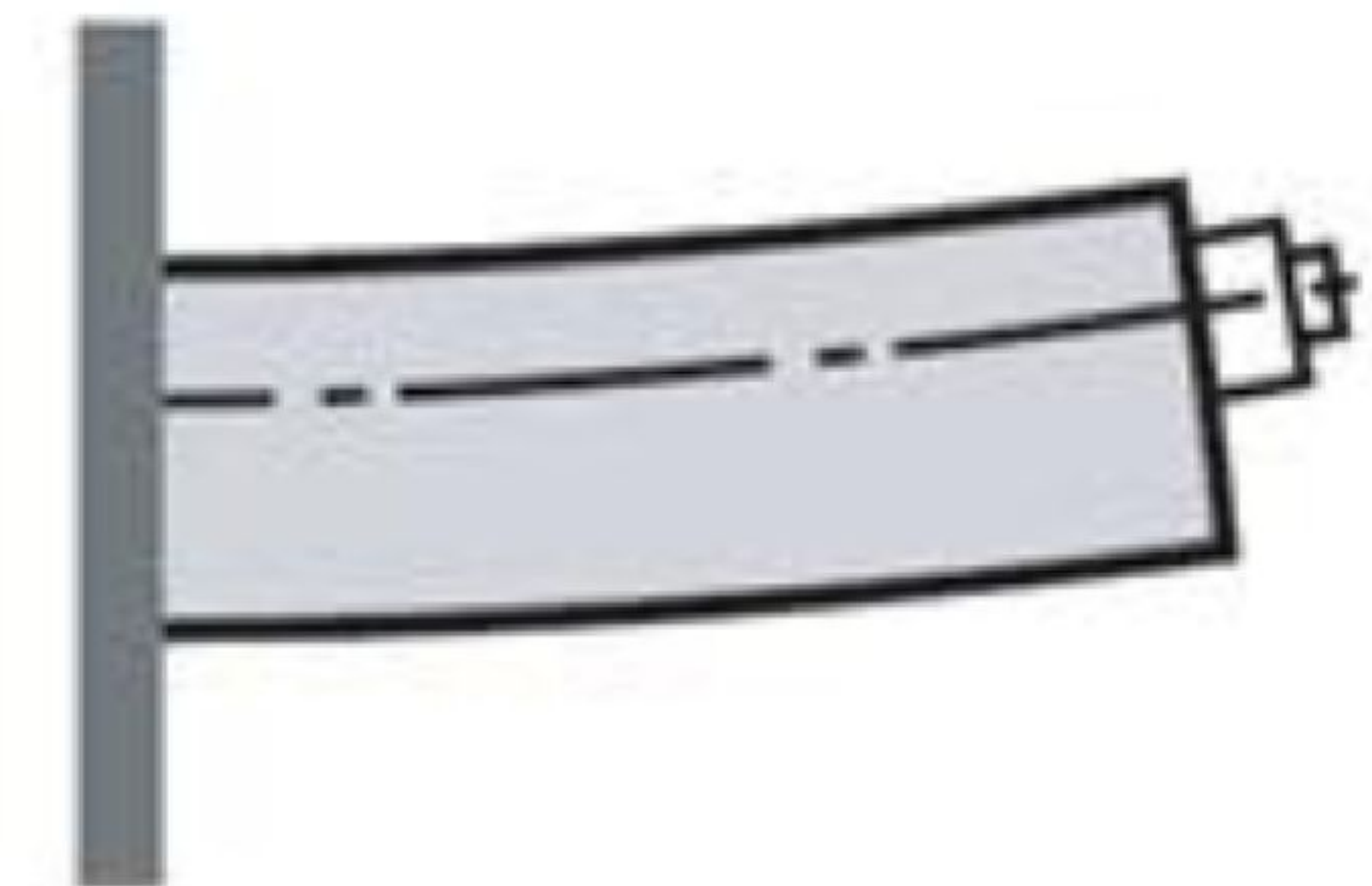
"Spirit, soul and body"

Compression vs. Tension

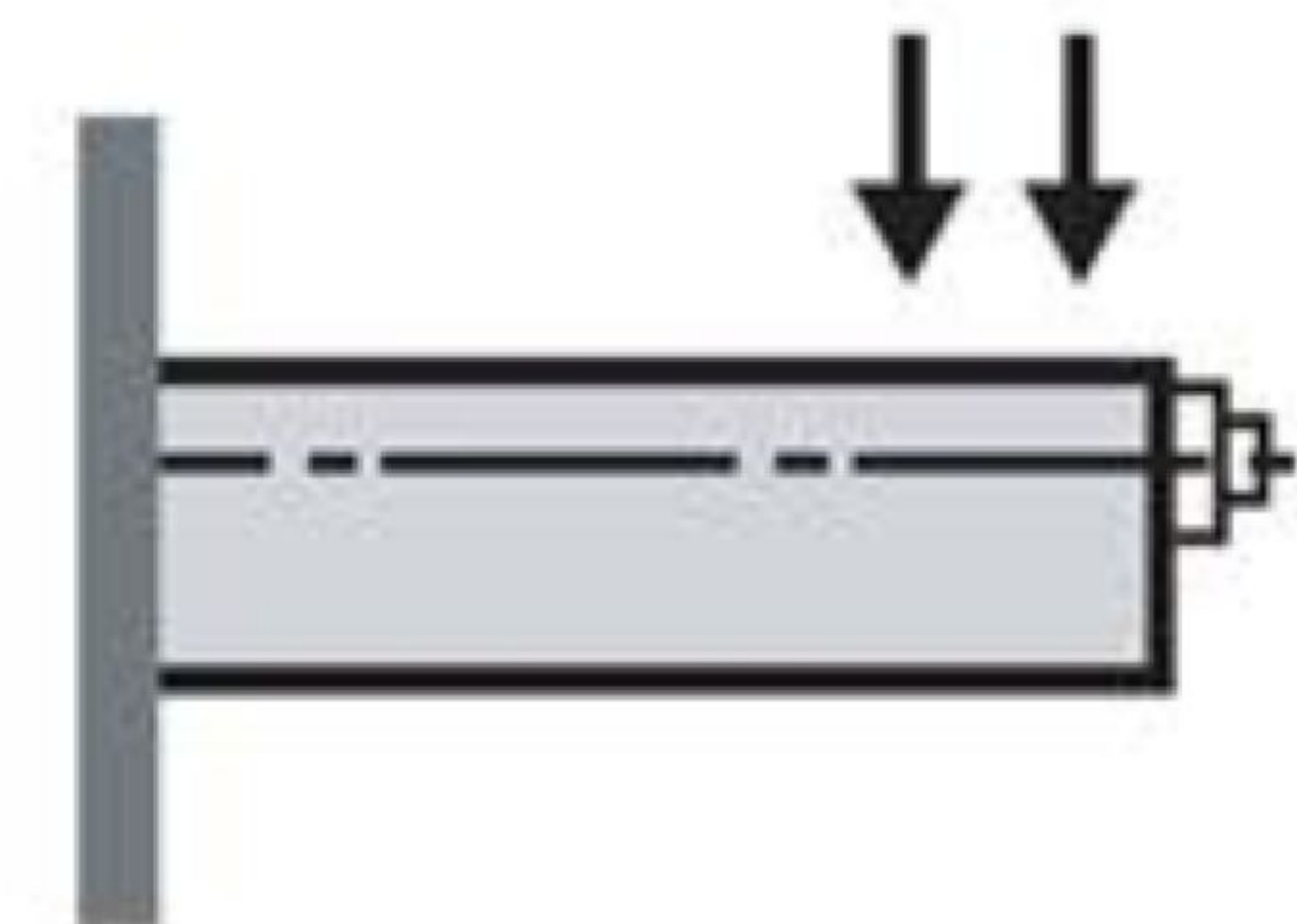
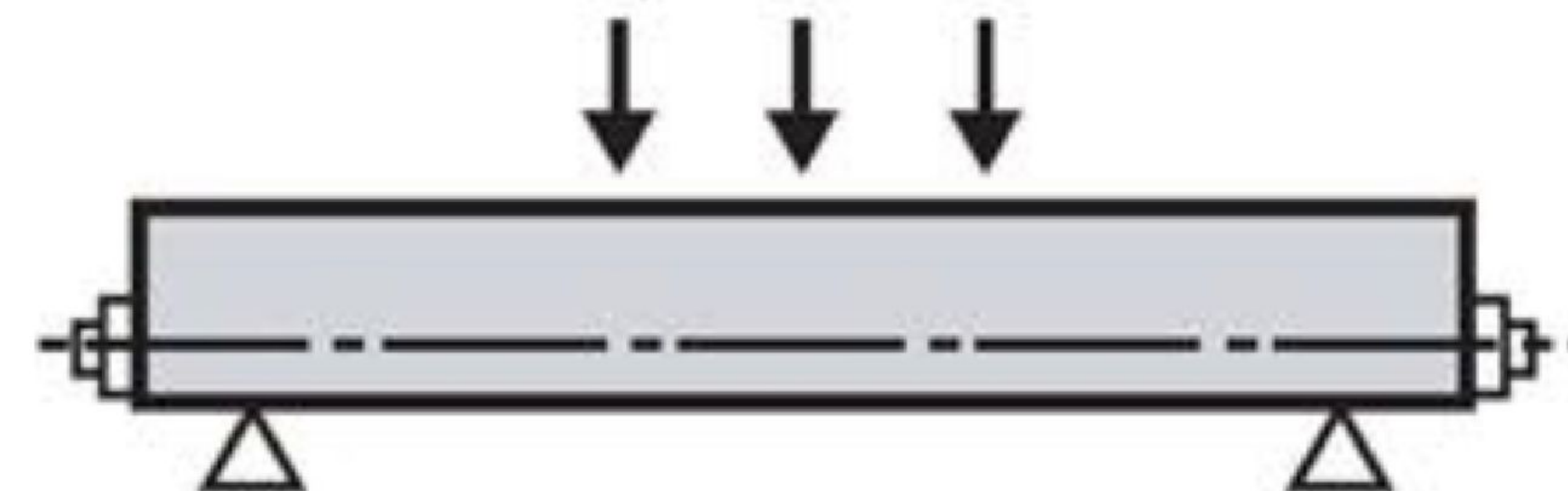
(a) Reinforced concrete cracked under load.



(b) Post-tensioned concrete before loading.



(c) Post-tensioned concrete after loading.



APPLICATION:

1. Sanctification is functionally God's only goal for you.
2. Accept this and have peace with God's means.
3. Accept God's other people too.
4. Accept the discipline and repetitions that make this work.
5. You need the church.

The tension of gracious striving:

**You must be sanctified.
This is all God's work.**



IMITATORS & EXAMPLES

A Series in 1 Thessalonians

