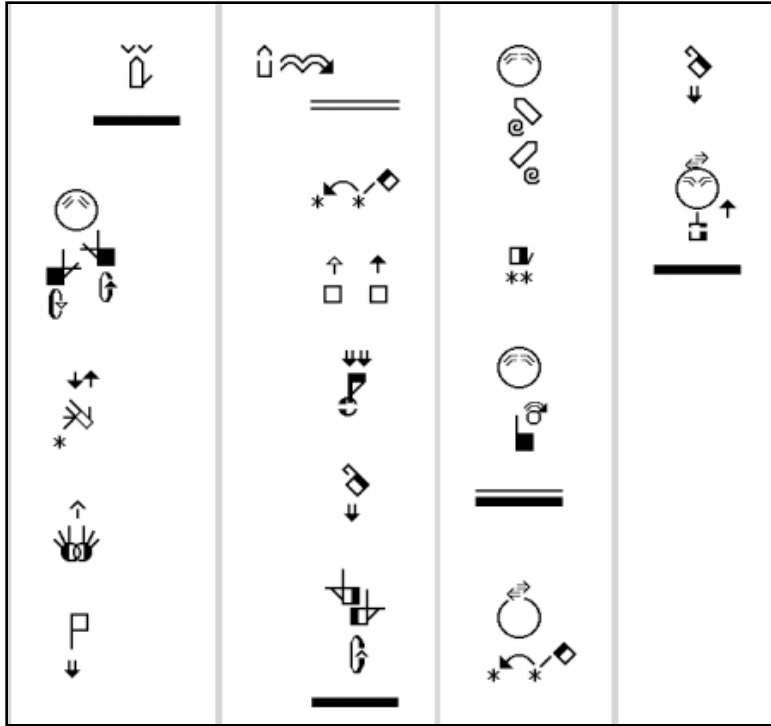


# HARD TO ADMIT WEAKNESS

15:1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.



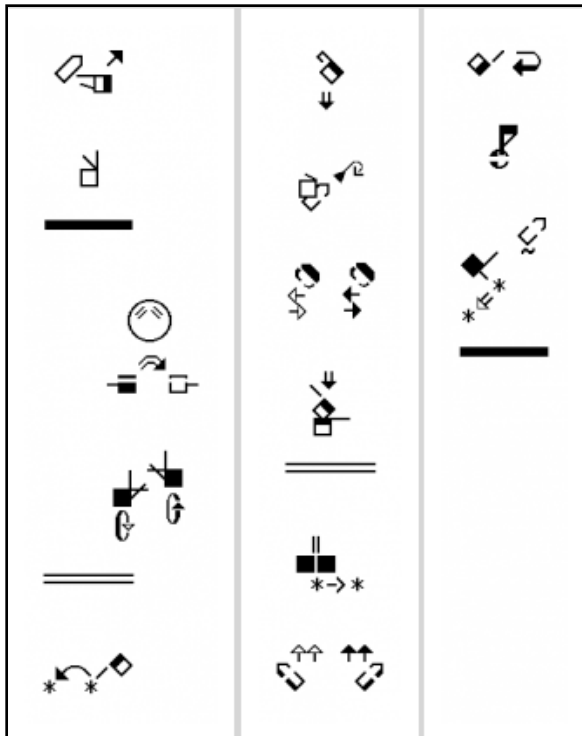
Who are the strong? Who are the weak? It seems as if the strong are those who know the Word and know their rights. However, the evidence of strength and maturity is not knowledge but how we treat the weak and the priority we put on pleasing ourselves.

In the world strong has a different meaning: physical ability, education, and talent. The Deaf world is no different. In the kingdom of God strong means self controlled, caring more about other people's feeling and spiritual benefit than our own.

Strong is a team thing. It is not to be satisfied with weakness, but desire maturity. better to please our neighbor, better to be involved in ministry, everyone of us.

Edification, what is it? This is what the strong do and what makes the...

2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.



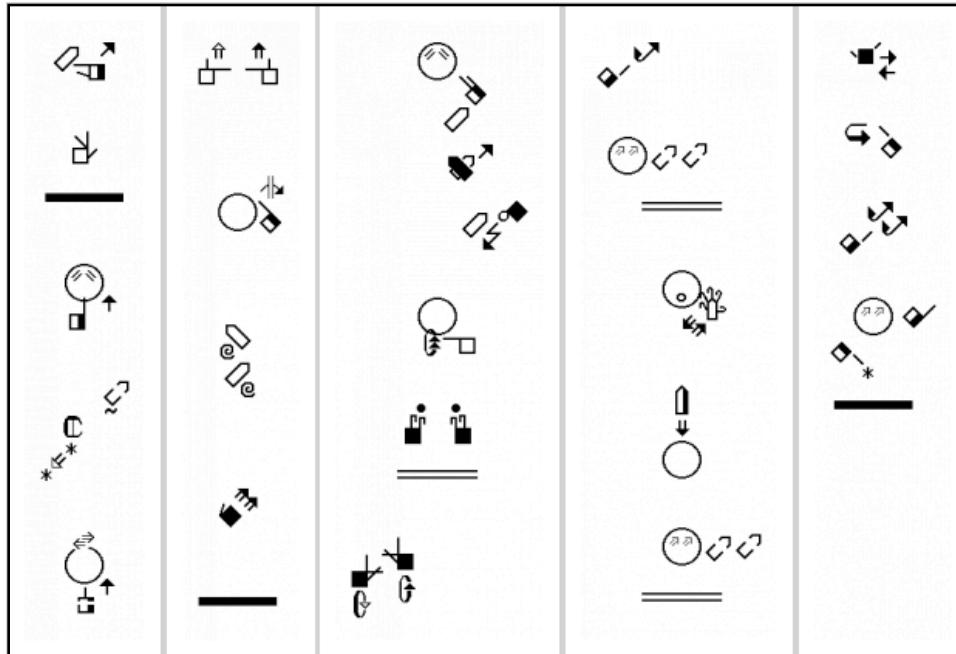
...strong stronger. Many people pray for strength and God offers ministry but they do not realize one of the greatest blessings of ministry is strength. When we make it our purpose to serves others, to better their lives, we also become stronger. However, if you tell yourself that I have no time, no energy, or resources to help build other Christians, you will remain weak, fighting the same temptations and problems repetitively.

This pleasing others more than ourselves is very difficult. Everyday, our own needs and desires challenge us. We need to eat; we need to keep warm; we need all kinds of things and Jesus wants us to be more than that. He wants us to be motivated by different principles.

Don't concentrate only on those you do please but also on those you have not yet pleased. How can you edify others?

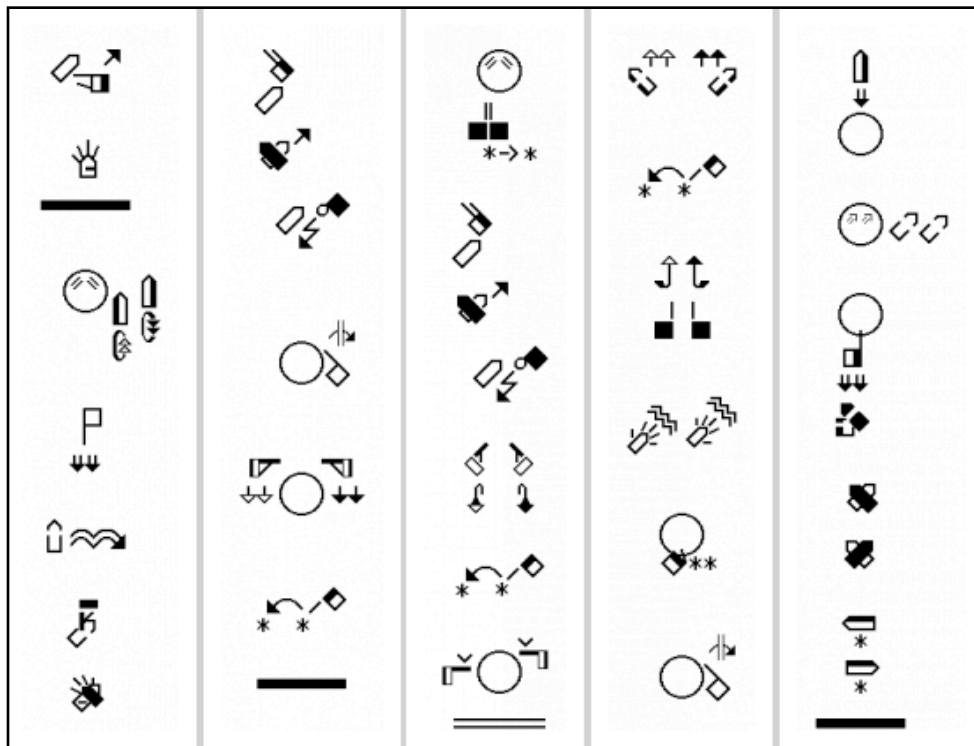
I have heard of very few people switching churches because they thought they needed a place to better please others; it is usually because they want to better please themselves and their family.

**3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.**



Reproaches the are criticisms, gossip, anger, slander, insults, and hurts that Jesus bore from others for the sake of love. God wants us to have the same attitude a patient bearing with other people's weaknesses. Every time I get angry I am reminded how WEAK I am and how certain it is that these trials will be repeated until I learn to be strong.

**4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**



All the Bible stories, the Proverbs, Psalms, and prophecies were written to help me learn to be patient, to calm my impatience with others. People are not against you; they are for themselves. Others might hurt us, maybe not intentionally, but we do not need to fight that. Those are the wrong fights. Fight Satan, not people. The scriptures reminds me how the saints were comforted and how they kept their hope alive.