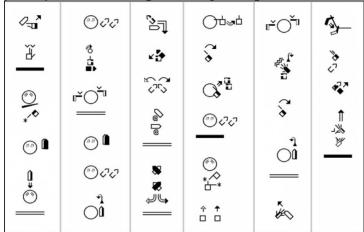
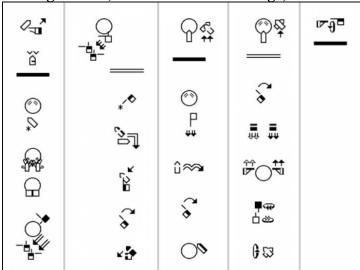
## GENTLE POWER

Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.



Let joy, peace, and hope through the gentle power of the Holy Spirit be yours. Deaf use the word power in a broader sense than hearing people. It is this sense Paul is referring to. Believing the gospel ignites a gentle sustaining energy that gives us hope in a world that discourages people that want to be good. The world says be smart; God says being good is smart. Jesus makes us good.

Romans 15:14 And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.



Many people know what God can do for them but they do not know what they can do for each other. When we accept Christ we are filled with the goodness of God; that goodness can help others. The more each of us knows God we become filled with knowledge that can help others. We should not hoard this knowledge but release its power. Instead of fault finding we should be fault fixing, fault healing instruments of God.

God has hired us into His spiritual hospital/college.

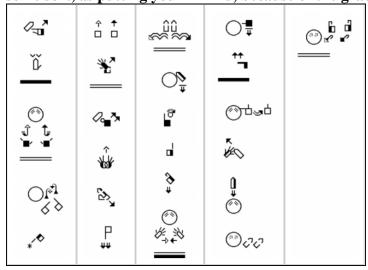
Hopelessness breeds despair; without hope every joy is at the most temporary. Even those who deny the unseen world and eternity, cannot encourage the poor, the weak, the suffering, and the sober people with strong reasons to live, and to live right.

It is only the gospel message anointed by the Holy Spirit that has the gentle but tremendous power to give people hope. Only the Holy Spirit can give people true peace with God and others.

When Christians realize what they are: brothers and sisters; when this knowledge changes their hearts they will see the secret of God. (Matthew 25:35)

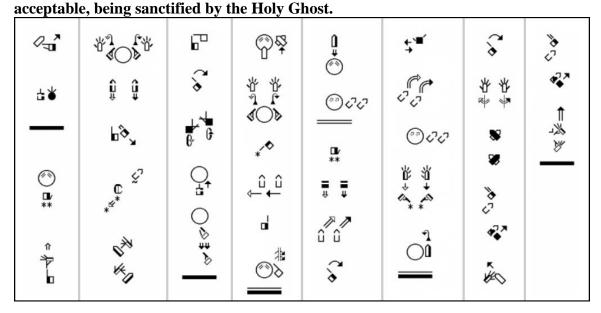
2Ki 6:16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

Romans 15:15 Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God,



Boldness is very hard for a minister because he does not want to scare people away, and yet he must be faithful in his service to God. God's grace enables this boldness. Love compels him. It would have been easy for Paul to please either the liberal or conservative factions in the church, but Paul had to say both factions were wrong because whatever is not love and whatever is not faith is not of God.

Romans 15:16 That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be



A minister of the gospel is not permitted to change what he ministers. (Ill.) A food store sells food; an auto dealer sells car, etc. Paul, the Apostle, was hired (called) by God to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. The Holy Spirit sanctifies (separates) us (the church) from Satan, the world and sin to belong to Jesus Christ. Note the Trinitarian implications.

(III.) My brother is institutionalized. Each sibling has a choice: He is not our brother; ignore him; or visit him. We also have a choice: we can tell ourselves that these other people at church are not our family, ignore them, or take them into in our lives. However, if you choose to think we are family then understand that God commands you "to admonish one another." You have been given goodness and knowledge.