



Tips for a Hearing Pastor or Elder to Effectively Minister to the Deaf:

1. Have a sincere and abiding relationship with God
2. Meet with and develop relationships with the Deaf
3. Show a genuine interest in the Deaf
4. Learn to communicate with the Deaf whether it be fingerspelling or some basic signs
5. Write or type notes if sign language skills are limited
6. Bring an interpreter (or someone fluent in sign language) on pastoral visits
7. Become aware of Deaf culture's behavioral norms, values, and customs
8. Uphold the biblical principle to care for the Deaf and meet their needs
9. Be patient with yourself and others
10. Include the Deaf in sermons

In Closing

Ellen G. White saw the importance of ministering to the Deaf as well as to others who need the church's attention:

*I saw that it is in the providence of God that widows and orphans, the blind, **the deaf**, the lame, and persons afflicted in a variety of ways, have been placed in close Christian relationship to His church; it is to prove His people and develop their true character. Angels of God are watching to see how we treat these persons who need our sympathy, love, and disinterested benevolence. This is God's test of our character. If we have the true religion of the Bible we shall feel that a debt of love, kindness, and interest is due to Christ in behalf of His brethren; and we can do no less than to show our gratitude for His immeasurable love to us while we were sinners unworthy of His grace, by having a deep interest and unselfish love for those who are our brethren and who are less fortunate than ourselves. – Testimonies to the Church, vol. 3, p.511.*

Let the action of the church begin by reaching the Deaf and the hard of hearing for Jesus.