

In the New Testament there are four lists of spiritual gifts that are distributed to the body of Christ: Ephesians 4, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and 1 Peter 4.

Upon reading and studying the above passages it appears that the gifts mentioned in Ephesians 4 are different from the gifts listed in the other passages. Below is a brief comparison*:

Common Characteristics Of All The Passages About Spiritual Gifts:

1. They all mention gifts that are given to build up the body of Christ.
2. They all emphasize the diversity of ministry among God's people.
3. Love and unity in the body of Christ are central to each of the passages.
4. They all mention gifts that are found in other lists, but each list also mentions gifts not found in any of the other passages. This may suggest that the lists are not exhaustive. This seems like a valid assumption, though it is not necessarily so.

Characteristics That Distinguish Ephesians 4 From The Others:

1. The source of the gifts in Ephesians 4 is Jesus rather than the Holy Spirit.
2. The gifts mentioned in Ephesians 4 are *people* rather than *abilities*.
3. All the gifts mentioned in the other passages have diverse and unique effects that they cause, but the gifts in Ephesians 4 have a singular and unified effect: The equipping of the saints to do the work of service.
4. The focus on who the gifts are given to in Ephesians 4 is the church rather than individual believers.
5. The intent of the Ephesians 4 gifts is to equip all of the saints so that everyone grows to represent Christ completely and to bring the church to the full measure of Christ. This seems to suggest that the list is comprehensive in nature.
6. The Ephesians 4 gifts are more like a calling than the other gifts, which emphasize individual service and placement. They are roles or functions of a person rather than a special ability.

Be sure to review these passages yourself and see if there are any other differences that you notice.

**This comparison is largely based on a similar overview done by Neil Cole.*