


# Neuma Global Network

Session 2 - 19 January 2024

Apostolic Advancement - Raef Soliman and Glenn Bleakney

 · 52mins

Glenn Bleakney 00:00

Welcome to our second session on the Neuma Global Network Leaders Community, and we're going to be continuing on the subject of the Apostolic. A little bit of a different focus today. We're going to be looking at the role of the Apostolic in advancing the Kingdom of God, and really that's what it's all of.

Glenn Bleakney 00:30

You're coming in at the end of the age. He said, when the Gospel of the Kingdom is preached throughout the whole world to all the nations, he said, then the end will come. So it's very important that we focus on the main thing, which is really advancing the Kingdom of God.

Glenn Bleakney 00:48

Of course, at Numa Church, globally, our vision is to plant 200 churches across the global hubs, of four global hubs that carry a spirit of revival to disciple cities and nations, but our mission really is all about advancing God's Kingdom, which is so biblical, so scriptural.

Glenn Bleakney 01:11

And when we focus on anything less than that, then I believe we can kind of get off in the wrong direction, and it will hinder us so that we're really not able to see the fullness of what the Lord wants to do in his church.

Glenn Bleakney 01:27

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As Jesus said that he gives us power, the power of the Holy Spirit, to actually proclaim the Gospel and Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. So we're going to be talking about that today, and we have the one and only Pastor Raph Solomon with us again.

Glenn Bleakney 01:46

Pastor Raph is the Apostolic Pillar at Numa Church and the global capacity on the executive leadership team, which he serves in that space just with excellence and with amazing passion, vision, and skill, I would say.

Glenn Bleakney 02:05

And he has given himself to the Lord first and foremost, but particularly to understand his Kingdom and to really see the facilitation of what the Lord wants to do to advance his Kingdom in the fivefold and the Apostolic in particular.

Glenn Bleakney 02:24

So, Pastor Raph, it's so good to have you back with us today. Thank you so much.

Raef Soliman 02:30

Pastor Glenn, honour to be back and I don't know who commented on the Sunshine Coast but I was there just a couple of weeks ago, heavily, heavily tanned more than usual. It is God's backyard I think, it's a beautiful place.

Glenn Bleakney 02:47

is. Yes. And yeah, it's great. And looking forward to actually visiting there in March for some holidays ourselves, some vacation time. But awesome. Pastor Raff, last time on this session, we were talking about the apostolic more as the role of the local church.

Glenn Bleakney 03:08

Today, as I mentioned, we're moving into the role of the apostolic in advancing God's kingdom. We've got several questions for you. And just for those who are on the Zoom meeting at the end, we will have a time of Q &A where you can ask specific questions.

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Glenn Bleakney 03:25

But the first question is, what role do apostolic leaders play in equipping and empowering the local church to fulfill its mission and purpose? Thanks.

Raef Soliman 03:38

Pastor Glenn and yeah look I mean great conversation opener and really the focal points of the Epistolic Grace Office and anointing. I might just quickly zoom out to the fivefold in general and then just really kind of begin to unpack some of the things around the Epistolic.

Raef Soliman 03:57

Obviously the fivefold, every office, every grace in the fivefold is an aspect of the ministry of Jesus Christ and Jesus is actually underrepresented or misrepresented if we have an absence in any of the fivefold graces in the church and that's the capital C so the church of Jesus across the earth but certainly even the local church.

Raef Soliman 04:26

So it's in that context I guess it's important to mention okay what is the role of the Epistolic Grace in the global church as well as the local church in equipping the saints for the work of ministry which is the role mentioned to us in Ephesians chapter 11 forward.

Raef Soliman 04:47

So let's go back to the question Pastor Glenn of Apostolic leadership in equipping and empowering the local church. Now the truth is we can spend the rest of our time on this one and there's so much to discuss so there's no way we're going to be comprehensive.

Raef Soliman 05:05

So I might just touch on you know two or three things that may be of prime importance when it comes to this. Now right at the center of the Epistolic Office and the Epistolic Grace is the bringing of kingdom order.

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Raef Soliman 05:21

On that last one we kind of like met together we spoke about you know what is the Epistolic anyway and the definition as we know comes kind of like you know from something really from the Roman Empire not a religious word where apostolus or where there was a general sent on behalf of the Roman Empire to lead an armada of ships for the colonization of new land to bring new land under the culture and subjection to Roman Empire so that that land could belong to Rome so that that land could resemble Rome in its culture become just like Rome and the word apostle actually comes from that the person the delegate who will lead the charge for the colonization the kingdom of heaven to come to earth leading the charge in that space so obviously when we talk about leading vision leading mission in the local church it's front and center of the apostolic office and as well as the apostolic grace the local church can become insular if it doesn't have the apostolic grace running through it but what happens with an apostle or the apostolic grace is that there's a broader kingdom perspective that is imparted to the entire church the the pattern of heaven what what heaven is saying about the community around us what heaven is saying about different cities what heaven is saying about the kingdom of god as entrusted to us to bring it to earth so apostolic leaders receive that kind of heavenly vision they seed that heavenly vision that heavenly vision becomes really quite contagious we see that in scripture over and over all of a sudden paul has a vision of something but the terminology goes from paul saying it to you know luke saying that the entire team around paul we concluded that the lord was sending us it was a collective thing not a personal thing so they mobilized people because of the heavenly vision that that's certainly one of the things that the apostolic office does in the local church the other thing that can't be replaced just simply because it's a grace it's an anointing we find that in the book of Micah chapter 2 and verse 13.

Raef Soliman 07:51

Now speaking of the Lord himself, the Lord talks about the breaker anointing or a breakthrough anointing that happens through the power and the presence of the Lord himself, the Holy Spirit. The one who breaks open the way will go before them and then they will break through and enter through the gates.

Raef Soliman 08:10

So there's a breaker anointing that's on the Lord himself, but there's a real distinct impartation. I'm not talking about a monopoly of the apostolic office on the breaker anointing, but it is one of the distinctives given to that office, given to that grace to have a breaker anointing.

Raef Soliman 08:29

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That's why we actually find that in church pattern a lot of really, really well-meaning shepherds have, because of a godly heart, have wanted to start churches and there's a real honest struggle with that because while they're doing everything they can, particularly the foundational phases, it's an incredible struggle and to be honest many of them don't succeed and that's not because of any fault or lack of godliness or learning or passion, it's literally because of a breaker anointing.

Raef Soliman 09:04

The breaker anointing that actually breaks ground, that takes territory of darkness and opens up the way to establish a community for the gospel where the other officers can operate, where the prophet, evangelist, shepherd and teacher can begin to form a community of faith, but there's a breaker anointing that is actually required to lead the charge and again kind of like in our pattern, I guess here at Numa, when we look for church planters, we are looking for that because we understand what it's going to take for that journey.

Raef Soliman 09:42

Another dimension that maybe we should touch on while we're talking about that of equipping and empowering to fulfill the mission is that I know that we mentioned last time that apostles at a first Corinthians 3, well Paul testifies about himself, that he's an architect.

Raef Soliman 10:01

He also mentions that he's a spiritual father. If we combine that grace together, we're talking about a father who has spiritual architecture in his DNA. Now what that looks like is the raising up of sons and daughters that become kingdom ambassadors and that's very important for the advancement and the fulfilling of the mission and purpose of any local church.

Raef Soliman 10:28

When Paul talks about that as a wise master builder, the term architect or architect, what he's really talking about there is that somebody who's been given by the Lord the capacity to see what the plan needs to be and how people actually fit into that plan, what gifts fit into that plan, what gifts need to come together in order to make the purposes of God fruitful and fulfilled and again that's very important for the local church that there's sons and daughters that are being raised in their gifts, in their God destinies, in their callings.

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Raef Soliman 11:07

I remember a number of years ago the Lord saying to me your destiny is to see the destiny of others fulfilled and that is a true assignment of every apostolic grace because the house of the Lord is actually built not through a single grace but the multiplicity, the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry.

Raef Soliman 11:29

So it's actually really quite important for the advancement and the fulfillment of the mission that there's a apostolic gifting that is able to call out the destinies, the potential, that which is dormant in people, that which needs to be fueled.

Raef Soliman 11:45

We see Paul doing that with Timothy and fueling and deflating the gift of God that is upon him. That is a real distinctive of the apostolic grace, again not a monopoly but an emphasis of the apostolic grace.

Raef Soliman 12:00

I'll probably just want to mention one more thing and it may seem a little bit off-center but it's actually an important one. The apostolic leaders really do maintain doctrinal integrity and the spiritual health of the church and that's actually really important because while apostles are really wholehearted, very passionate about the abiding of truth, I mean all we have to do is read something like epistles of John and we could see the admonition one after the other around pursuing truth being the most important pursuit, abiding and becoming one with the truth.

Raef Soliman 12:40

We see Paul talking to Timothy about rightly dividing the word of truth. These are really really important matters because the entrustment of scripture, the entrustment to the apostolic ministry of truth is a very very important entrustment.

Raef Soliman 13:00

As a matter of fact when Jesus has got something to say to the churches, we see two out of the seven churches in the book of revelations, Pergamos, the compromising

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church theatera, the corrupted church, that the issues were issues of what they did not do or what they did with the truth of God.

Raef Soliman 13:20

They allowed the teaching of Balaam, they allowed the teaching of Jezebel to run rampant through the church. Now doctrinal integrity is under the guard of apostleship. Now we may be thinking okay what's that actually got to do with the fulfillment of mission and purpose?

Raef Soliman 13:39

Well the truth is everything because every progress of the kingdom of darkness happens as a result of deception, spirits of deception, invading the church and every advancement of the kingdom of God happens because of truth.

Raef Soliman 13:57

That's why the apostles we see in the original blueprint in the book of Acts chapter 6 will not deviate. We will give ourselves continually to the ministry of the word as well as the ministry of prayer because truth is going to take the church forward.

Raef Soliman 14:14

Otherwise the church becomes exactly like what Jesus said of those churches and revelations. They become corrupted or they become compromising. Neither one of those states makes the church effective and therefore the internal health of a church by truth is very important under apostolic leadership.

Raef Soliman 14:36

Truth is we can probably talk a little bit more about that but that may be enough just for now so it doesn't become totally monologue at this stage.

Glenn Bleakney 14:45

No, thank you, Pastor Raff. It actually ties in to the second question, which has to do with the unique qualities and insights that apostolic leaders bring toward the governance and direction of a local church.

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Glenn Bleakney 14:59

Maybe you wanna just use that as a springboard to take it a little deeper or even go in a different direction, if you feel. Sure.

Raef Soliman 15:10

Okay, just sort of where, let's maybe touch on something else in that space when we talk about the governance and direction of a church and apostolic leadership in that space. Again, I think what I'm about to say, I don't in any shape or form mean, the uniqueness of it means the monopoly of it.

Raef Soliman 15:33

It's not just with apostles. However, it is a distinctive, it is an emphasis when it comes to the apostolic grace because the apostolic office is highly governmental in scripture. It brings structure, it brings order, it brings definition to the church.

Raef Soliman 15:54

And that's very important to capture around the structure, the order and the definition. We see that repeatedly demonstrated in the book of Acts because it is a highly governmental role. It carries a legal authority in it.

Raef Soliman 16:12

That's why it feels quite weighty because it does carry that legal authority on behalf of the sending person. So even the original word, so Caesar would send a general, but that general would carry the weight of Caesar and the entire Roman Empire in leading the armada.

Raef Soliman 16:34

So we can see that inherent in the offices, actually the delegation of authority to govern and to set things in order. So when the church is a little bit confused in the book of Acts around matters that pertain to the mosaic law and circumcision and so forth, it's the community of apostles that get together and correct and set the entire church in order.

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Raef Soliman 16:59

We say again, the apostle Paul talking to an apostle, but in the name of Titus, Titus 1 .5, he tells him quite clearly, 43s and I left you in Crete, that you may appoint elders in every city and set in order the things that are lacking to bring definition to the church, structure to the church, order to the church.

Raef Soliman 17:21

We see Paul himself teaching in his epistles order of service, order in the church, things to be done decently and in order. It's highly governmental in that space. One of the things that I find just naturally accompanies the Holy Spirit's equipping of the gift of wisdom is often a twin of the apostolic office.

Raef Soliman 17:49

That's why we find Peter talking about Paul, for example, in his second epistle talks about how he wrote according to the wisdom given to him that the Lord gave him a special wisdom, a special insight in order to order to bring definition, clarity, purity, forward movement, heavenly pattern to the earthly church.

Raef Soliman 18:15

Wisdom, really what we're talking about there is just the knowledge of heaven when it comes to applying it to a particular situation. Again, if we are talking about the governmental nature to bring order, it's really, really inherent to the office of apostleship.

Raef Soliman 18:34

When we talk about direction, that's really kind of like multi fronted. Some of that stuff we've already, I guess, spoken into already, but it's also important to know that the apostolic grace is not just an attraction or grace.

Raef Soliman 18:50

What I mean by that is that the apostolic grace doesn't just think of how many people can we bring into the church and how many people can we see it? The apostolic grace is thinking a lot about how many people can we send.

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Raef Soliman 19:03

The apostolic grace is thinking about not only teams that fulfilled the Sunday service, that's part of it, but that isn't the mission, but how could we put together teams that invade regions and cities and nations and bring the gospel where the gospel is not yet preached?

Raef Soliman 19:24

There's a real training of various ministries. There's a releasing of harvest teams in whatever way that looks, but they're harvest teams, whether that's church planting or mission teams or whatever that looks like, what the expression looks like, but it is an invasion of the kingdom of darkness under a apostolic anointing.

Raef Soliman 19:47

Again, we can talk a lot about that, Pastor Glenn, but it may be sufficient there.

Glenn Bleakney 19:54

Yeah, wow, awesome. So I'm already thinking of what that looks like and just want to make a just a quick comment on that. You know, Pastor Raph, as you said, the goal of the Apostle, really his mission or his commissioning, and in the context of Roman being sent forth from Caesar, when they would go in and occupy territory, and then eventually they would bring transformation in that space.

Glenn Bleakney 20:24

And what one of the things that is interesting, and I've read this in history, is that when Caesar would visit that land that had been conquered, his goal, what he was looking for was once he got there, had that city, that nation, he had to feel at home there.

Glenn Bleakney 20:45

In other words, the culture of Rome had been so embedded and infused in that city and nation that he felt at home. Now, take that in the context of his kingdom come, his will be done on earth as it is in heaven, that Jesus, the Father, is looking for us to bring such a transformation to the earth that he literally can make his home here.

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Glenn Bleakney 21:13

And, you know, the scripture talks about that, doesn't it, that the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of Christ and God in Revelation 11. So very, very profound. Thank you, Pastor Raph.

Glenn Bleakney 21:27

Okay, let's talk about the involvement of apostolic leadership in the local church toward fostering a greater sense of cohesiveness and unity among the people of God in regards to kingdom mission among its members.

Glenn Bleakney 21:47

And what I want to just say regarding that, Pastor Raph, is of course when we talk about apostolic leaders apostles in the local church, there may not be a set apostle in each local church, depending on where, you know, the church is out what they believe the leaders are, you know, but ultimately the need for apostolic leadership to be present, to contribute, to have some sort of, you know, relationship and influence.

Glenn Bleakney 22:23

That's what I'm referring to.

Raef Soliman 22:27

Fantastic. Thanks, Pastor Glenn. And again, just an amazing conversation to really be having. We see that the pattern of Scripture in the Book of Ephesians 4, that the entire fivefold, is called to equip the saints to bring the church to unity and maturity.

Raef Soliman 22:47

It's a fundamental purpose. And I would even just kind of almost interject myself at this point and say that it's really, really important that when we're thinking fivefold, the fivefold is obviously a means to an end and not an end in itself.

Raef Soliman 23:03

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It's not about having a fivefold structure. It's what happens through the fivefold that is actually quite critical. And the metrics must be what happens through the fivefold, not just that we have a fivefold team, because that's inadequate.

Raef Soliman 23:18

That's the form, but not the reason. When it comes to the apostolic grace and office to build a sense of cohesiveness, there really is two dimensions of that. One of them's at the local level, one of them's at the global level.

Raef Soliman 23:35

So at the local level, there's obviously the whole rallying around one heavenly vision. At the local level, we see again in Scripture and we see in local churches again and again, that there's an impartation of a heavenly vision.

Raef Soliman 23:52

There's an impartation of a heavenly cause, has the witness of the Holy Spirit on it. We see that in the book of Acts, chapter 16, Paul receives a revelation regarding Macedonia, those surrounding, as we mentioned earlier, conclude that they themselves are called.

Raef Soliman 24:10

So the apostles rally God's people around a central vision from heaven. That happens at the local level. There's a real sense of unified purpose. And it's funny because when people wanna find out their individual destiny, they always find it in the context of the collective destiny that is sovereignly brought about by the Holy Spirit.

Raef Soliman 24:34

That's the only way really people can find their individual destiny in the collective vision of where the Lord has sovereignly placed them. But that's at the local level. There is probably something that I'd love to speak into, which is the more global function of the apostolic grace in bringing that cohesiveness in kingdom purpose, which is really important because I feel like that's especially one of the things that the Holy Spirit is recovering in the worldwide church of Jesus.

Raef Soliman 25:06

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So it's probably good to begin to introduce the whole concept and thought around local churches, but global apostles, local churches and global apostles. And to begin to see the honest pattern of scripture, even in the book of Romans chapter one and verse five, I'm just going to read it.

Raef Soliman 25:28

Paul says, through him, we have received grace and apostleship for obedience that are faith among all nations for his name. We see that one of the patterns that is actually really quite clear in scripture.

Raef Soliman 25:44

There were lots of local churches, but they had an alignment with a global apostle. And that's the whole thing again, around the Titus 1 .5, local leaders set an order, appoint elders in every city, set an order, things that are lacking.

Raef Soliman 26:01

But where did that come from? That came from a global apostle. That came from an apostle to whom it was entrusted, nations, a metron, et cetera, et cetera. So there's a real global thing, and that's one of the attributes of the apostles that they develop those trans -local networks where the church is a unified church.

Raef Soliman 26:25

And why I'm really kind of, I guess, taking the time to speak into that, I personally believe that's one of the things that the Holy Spirit is powerfully recovering, which is the whole concept of apostolic centers, apostolic hubs.

Raef Soliman 26:40

Now, again, we see that in scripture. We see Antioch, we see Jerusalem, we see Ephesus. Where these places were actually apostolic centers, there were apostolic hubs, and the local churches. related to those apostolic centers and apostolic hubs and in such a beautiful way the Holy Spirit brought such worldwide unity of the Church of Jesus and therefore worldwide effectiveness of the church, a worldwide purpose that was included the local church but greater than any one local church.

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Raef Soliman 27:18

And if we are talking about revival across all nations that will that will usher the second coming of Jesus Christ, that pattern must be restored. The pattern of global apostolic centers, global apostles, local churches and the Holy Spirit's all over it.

Raef Soliman 27:38

It's happening so organically, it's happening so naturally, it's happening even without the church knowing but if we step back and observe the fingerprints of the Holy Spirit and His workings, it is being restored.

Raef Soliman 27:51

It is a beautiful restoration of the Holy Spirit in our current age. So when it comes to, I'm just going back to the question, the greater sense of cohesiveness regarding kingdom purpose, I think that the Lord has those two dimensions in mind.

Raef Soliman 28:09

There's a local and there's a global function for apostles when it comes to the oneness of the Church of Jesus and its effectiveness.

Glenn Bleakney 28:19

Wow, so good. Wow, very good. Yeah, guys, I just want to mention that the video from today's session and also the transcript will be available to you as a member of the Numa Global Network in our online portal as well.

Glenn Bleakney 28:37

The fourth question that we want to talk about is mentoring and raising up the next generation. And Pastor Raff, you already mentioned the role of apostles related to being an architect and also a spiritual father.

Glenn Bleakney 28:52

And I think about the scripture where it says in Revelation, the church in Ephesus, you've tested those who claim to be apostles and found them false. And Paul talks about in 2 Corinthians 12, 12, the signs of an apostle.

Glenn Bleakney 29:07

So what are the attributes of an apostle? And some say the apostolicity. And that basically is to include spiritual fathers raising up mentoring. And so if you use the title, but the attributes are not there.

Glenn Bleakney 29:26

And specifically, I believe this emphasis here on mentoring and raising up is so important. And God is really highlighting this in the season Holy Spirit is doing that. So Pastor Raff, what is your understanding, you know, your experience in terms of apostolic leaders effectively, effectively, that's an important word, mentoring and raising up the next generation of leaders within the local church?

Raef Soliman 29:58

Yeah. I find Pastor Glenn, again, just because of the nature of the apostolic always pursuing new frontiers in the Lord, those frontiers sometimes are geographical. So sometimes the Lord will put on the heart of the Apostle a heavenly vision to, you know, in different regions, different spaces, different cities of invasion.

Raef Soliman 30:22

Sometimes they are highly spiritual to bring kingdom order. It's a frontier that is spiritual healing, deliverance to bring kingdom order. But those frontiers also include generational. I believe that every apostolic grace is very passionate about every generation that exists and future generations to come.

Raef Soliman 30:45

It's again, really inherent in the apostolic grace. So there are churches and I know that distinct callings and praise God for those churches, but they focus on a single generation. That's fine. There's nothing wrong with that.

Raef Soliman 31:01

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But generally speaking, the apostolic ministry, every generation is important. The older important, the very younger important, every generation in between important generations to come are important and a part of the thinking.

Raef Soliman 31:18

Now, when it comes to raising generations, because I think maybe that's the focus of this question, I'm probably not, you know, not recommending this method or that method. We see that methods vary. We see Jesus in Mark 3 .14 that they were with him and that he sent them out to preach.

Raef Soliman 31:39

We see Paul doing the same with Timothy. We see in the Old Testament that there was a school of prophets. The methods can vary. The most important thing is intentionality around raising the generations.

Raef Soliman 31:52

It's the purpose. It's the intentionality. It's the thinking around that your kingdom come, your will be done is not the work of one generation. It is the work of every generation together, and it must compound.

Raef Soliman 32:08

The next generation must be so great over this generation. They must catch the fire and multiply that fire 100 fold and okay, what is the intentionality of our ministry, our church in that space to make sure that they're engaged, but they're not only engaged.

Raef Soliman 32:30

They will multiply the work of the Lord. They will take the work of the Lord further and the purpose of the Lord. They will become godlier than we are, have greater revelation than what we have, greater insight, greater partnership, greater commission.

Raef Soliman 32:46

So our work then becomes to discover the heart of God, to discover, develop and deploy. The most important thing is to create those opportunities for them where the

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fathers and the sons, the mothers and the daughters are literally walking hand in hand for the work of the Holy Spirit to continue one wave of the Holy Spirit after the other, becoming greater and greater.

Raef Soliman 33:13

That must be, I remember Pastor Bill Johnson once talking about the migration of this particular butterfly from I think somewhere in America to Mexico, and that it actually takes four generations for that butterfly that sets out to get from one country to the next.

Raef Soliman 33:33

The one that sets out knows that it's not going to get there, but literally it's a four generational thing of butterflies in order to get it from one destination to the other. The coming of the kingdom when it comes to apostleship must be with that heart and that thinking.

Raef Soliman 33:48

We're going to take it as far as we can, but we know we're not going to do it alone. This is a generational work for Messiah Jesus to be glorified in his kingdom to come.

Glenn Bleakney 34:01

Yeah, so good. Amazing. Alright, let's talk about the apostolic ministry and the apostle working alongside the other fourfold ministry graces. So the other four, the prophet, evangelist, shepherd, and teacher, in a balanced way.

Glenn Bleakney 34:18

How does that work?

Raef Soliman 34:21

Well, first of all, I think every person who is apostolically endowed and office by the Holy Spirit, there must be a really, really clear recognition that the ministry of Jesus is a five-fold ministry, not just an apostolic ministry of, but again, just in partnership and discussion with a lot of beautiful churches around, they set out and the church becomes just purely apostolic prophetic.

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Raef Soliman 34:54

Now, that's beautiful that for me personally, that's incomplete because Jesus hasn't called us to a two -fold ministry. He's called us for a five -fold ministry for the whipping of the saints, for growth and maturity.

Raef Soliman 35:10

And the ministry of Jesus prophet. Book of Deuteronomy chapter 18, verse 15, Moses prophesied that the Lord will send you a prophet like me, him you will heed. Jesus is a prophet. Jesus is an evangelist, Luke 19:10, son of man has come to seek him to save that which is lost.

Raef Soliman 35:31

Jesus is a shepherd, I am the good shepherd in John 10 -11. Jesus is the teacher, John 13 -13, you say that I am teacher and Lord and you say rightly, but I am your teacher and Lord, he is teacher. So the fullness of Jesus to be manifest and for the power of the Holy Spirit, the entirety of five -fold, all of the facets of Jesus Christ must be expressed in the church.

Raef Soliman 35:58

The five -fold needs to be in operation, not just the apostolic. The apostolic must play its part, but actually the primary purpose of the apostolic is to make sure that there's five -fold surrounding that.

Raef Soliman 36:16

So there must be, and that would be the only other thing that I would couple with that, there must be intentionality and review. That doesn't just happen by default, it happens by design. Well, okay, we can at a really practical level, look at our, for example, our platforms.

Raef Soliman 36:34

On Sundays, what's actually coming across what's been, is it always just purely apostolic? Is it always purely missional? Or is there an expression? Is there a balanced expression right across the board of the five -fold graces?

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Raef Soliman 36:51

What's happening in our connect groups, our small groups? Is it leaning more toward one or two graces or is it the five -fold graces being expressed? It is important to review. I know that for us here at Numa, we literally the five -fold, we catch up every week, but we do have a quarterly two or three days of planning and review.

Raef Soliman 37:13

And always part of that review, we speak into, okay, where's it at? What, where actually does the emphasis need to be? Where is it a little bit too much? What's absent? What needs to be complemented?

Raef Soliman 37:26

Because we're just mindful that church is not really going to represent Jesus, nor equip the saints fully unless it's representative of the five -fold.

Glenn Bleakney 37:40

Excellent. Thank you. Pastor Raph. So good. And yeah, the big takeaway there. We aren't called to have just apostolic churches as much as we're talking about apostolic today. The goal is not to have just an apostolic grace or leadership inherent in the church or you know we obviously need the fivefold which brings that balance.

Glenn Bleakney 38:01

So good. Pastor Raph regarding the role of an apostle, the apostolic leadership contributing to the overall growth and expansion of the church in regions and nations. Obviously that's something that we need to be intentional about.

Glenn Bleakney 38:19

You've already touched on that. So what are some specific ways that apostolic ministry can contribute to that and you know help ensure that takes place.

Raef Soliman 38:29

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Fantastic. So reaching when we talk about the Great Commission and reaching the nations with the Kingdom of God, I really just want to put to us very quickly four recommendations. One of them is build a five -fold team and the reason that's critical is because of some of the things that we touched on.

Raef Soliman 38:48

The saints will not be equipped unless there is a five -fold team in their fullness. The Kingdom will not advance in power unless there is a five -fold team. It is the biblical pattern. Now one of the things that I found really interesting in studying church history was how powerful the church was for the first three centuries because of the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry.

Raef Soliman 39:11

Every saint, every born again child of God walked in the presence and the power of God. If we go into the writings we find that there's lots of writings where the everyday person walked in miracles and signs and wonders and gifts of the Holy Spirit walked in sanctity, etc, etc.

Raef Soliman 39:32

That's because of the work, the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry. We find that there was a bit of a shift in the church around about 312 AD with Constantine and all that happened in that space but because it's not a history lesson we won't go there.

Raef Soliman 39:47

But basically what started to happen was the beginning of this division of laity and clergy, the beginning of this division of even going into buildings and so forth. So there were those who became professional Christians and those who became attendees.

Raef Soliman 40:07

We lost the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry and therefore we lost the advancement of the Kingdom or diluted it. One of the reasons that the Holy Spirit is restoring the fivefold pattern to the current church is because the revival of the Kingdom of God and the knowledge of Jesus Christ that is to come to our nurse can only come as the saints are equipped to walk in presence and power.

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Raef Soliman 40:35

So definitely I would strongly recommend the rebuilding of the fivefold in this space. Recommend that we pray and think especially if we are church leaders around planting self -multiplying churches in unreached areas.

Raef Soliman 40:55

I've just recently read the book of Acts over and realized for the very first time that literally from chapters 13 to 21 it's all about church planting. I'm like okay Lord there's something in that. Different regions, different cities, Asia Minor, Macedonia, Greece etc all being reached with the Gospels through leaders being raised and churches being planted.

Raef Soliman 41:23

The third thing that I'd recommend that I'm just going to have to hassle it because of time, multiplying leaders is critical especially when it comes to the intentionality of raising apostolic leaders.

Raef Soliman 41:35

I know here we have a church planters pathway we're going on kind of like a two -year journey that it starts off with an intensive but literally every fortnight for two years we're intentionally raising an apostolic community in that space so we are looking to multiply the grace and the leadership in that space.

Raef Soliman 41:58

Probably last but not least is the whole concept of partnering. Now that's connecting with other apostolic ministries and other apostles. That's very important for the work of the gospel to be effective and to move forward in our cities, in our regions and across our world.

Raef Soliman 42:17

The entire thing is meant to happen on partnership. Churches now I know we're definitely looking at combined mission trips and we're having combined prayer meetings all over the world over particular cities and reaches but partnership with other apostolic

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ministries is really critical to fulfilling the great commission and advancing the kingdom across nations.

Raef Soliman 42:43

I might just keep it there Pastor Glenn.

Glenn Bleakney 42:45

Well, that's good and definitely have opportunities in the future to drill down even deeper in terms of executing on that. So very good. So we have, obviously, churches in different places in the world who they've not really embraced the Great Commission or advancing the kingdom of God.

Glenn Bleakney 43:07

And their focus is more inward and maybe on seeing people's disciples well and healed and made whole. And that's certainly important, but as you said, that's just one aspect of the Fivefold. And how do apostolic leaders in some practical ways, if you could share Pastor Rapp, help take the church on the journey toward engaging in the Great Commission and advancing the kingdom of God to the nations?

Glenn Bleakney 43:37

Yeah.

Raef Soliman 43:39

I mean, Pastor Glenn, we can touch on a lot of the things that we have already touched on. How much time do I have for this? Because I just want to... Yeah, sure, five minutes. Just want to do your time.

Raef Soliman 43:51

Five minutes, yeah. Okay, so I might just want to read from the book of Acts an example on this one, rather than... So I'm just going to read from the book of Acts chapter 16 and verses one to five. It talks about how Paul came to Darby and Lystra and certain disciples were there.

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Raef Soliman 44:12

Timothy was there, son of a Jewish woman who had believed his father was Greek and he was spoken well of by the brethren. Paul wanted him to go on with him, took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region.

Raef Soliman 44:27

In verse four it talks about how they went through the cities and delivered to them the decrees to keep which were determined by the apostles and the elders in Jerusalem. And the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily.

Raef Soliman 44:42

And the apostolic contribution just in that space of how the church expands and grows even across nations is just a great illustration for me. I see at least five things in that that I'll go through really quickly.

Raef Soliman 45:00

I see in verse one obviously Paul took Timothy which we can see which is evidence that the apostolic ministry really does look at the intentional development of leaders that we already touched on by on -the -job training.

Raef Soliman 45:16

So they take them along, there's a shadowing. I know that Pastor Glenn actually you're doing that right now. You've got some church leaders that will be sent out but they're shadowing you. There's on -the -job training happening.

Raef Soliman 45:29

That is part and parcel of the apostolic ministry to literally below the wind of the Holy Spirit on the seeds that are in people that are going to be sent out. The second thing that I see there is how theology was clarified.

Raef Soliman 45:44

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We see that in verse four because the church must be internally healthy not just externally aggressive. If the church is going to take ground in the world it has to come from a place of health. So theology was clarified there in verse four.

Raef Soliman 46:01

In verse five we see that the churches were strengthened in faith. That is part and parcel of the apostolic ministry. As a matter of fact I think the apostolic race often is leading not not just because of the vision that the Lord is given but because of the gift of faith.

Raef Soliman 46:20

Sometimes when the team's tired and so forth, apostles are the first to get the kind of like second wind and have enough faith to impart and infuse and reinvigorate the entire team and the team rises up under the wings of faith.

Raef Soliman 46:37

The fourth thing that's there is that the disciples increased in number and the last thing is probably in verse 10 when I talk about he had seen a vision and they went to Macedonia meaning that the gospel is preached in new cities.

Raef Soliman 46:52

But I find that that's a beautiful demonstration of five things that really kind of like the apostolic race does in its contribution to the overall growth of the expansion of the church in different nations and cities.

Glenn Bleakney 47:09

So yeah, very good. Thank you. Wow, absolutely amazing, Pastor Raff, in terms of what you shared. And I just really love the fact that we can do this together as leaders, and we can learn from one another, you know, and the School of Hard Knocks is overrated.

Glenn Bleakney 47:28

Honestly, it's so important that we just lean into the knowledge that we have in this community here, so we can grow together. And one of the things, of course, we want to, in terms of moving forward with next sessions that we have planned, one of the things

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that we want to start to do is begin to actually be very practical and strategic, and in terms of mapping out some ways that we can bring change to our structure, our paradigms.

Glenn Bleakney 48:01

So for example, specifically, what does it look like for us to really build apostolically? And again, as Pastor Raef mentioned, when we talk about apostolic leadership, foundationally, you know, the church is built on the foundation of apostles and prophets, etc.

Glenn Bleakney 48:21

And God has set in the church, first of all, apostles, and the apostle is about seeing the fivefold, you know, activated, calling that out in others, and then ultimately for the purpose of seeing the whole body of Christ equipped.

Glenn Bleakney 48:38

So when we talk about apostolic leadership, we're not saying that we just identify apostles. We mean the restoration and really the reimplementation of the fivefold as it was in the early church in its more mature expression.

Glenn Bleakney 48:55

So we want to go on that journey together in some sessions in the future, and really, really important. I think that we do that. And these will be sessions that are very interactive, where we get to, you know, give feedback ourselves rather than just the interview here that we're doing.

Glenn Bleakney 49:16

So, and we'll continue to do the interviews. Actually, our next session that we're looking at tentatively, and we're going to send an email out just to make sure that we have enough interest would be on Friday, the 16th of February.

Glenn Bleakney 49:31

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And then after that session, on March the 1st, we have Pastor Corey Turner joining us, that's going to be amazing. And, but we want to make sure that because obviously, as we get into March with Easter and that we may not be able to, you know, it gets to be a busy time.

Glenn Bleakney 49:48

So these two sessions is what we're planning on. But we'll send an email out just to confirm. And if you're a member of the Numa Global Network, you sign up at [ngn .neuma .church](https://ngn.neuma.church). And there's a monthly subscription fee in Australian dollars.

Glenn Bleakney 50:04

If you're in the US, it's actually almost half. It's sad, but good, good for those of you who are in the US. We've also got a heap of resources available for you guys right now that is already has been uploaded to the Numa Global Network portal.

Glenn Bleakney 50:25

Again, [ngn .neuma .church](https://ngn.neuma.church). When you become a member, then you get access to that. We've got in there right now all of the videos from our five -fold summit with the transcripts. We also have two video teachings by Pastor Corey on building teams.

Glenn Bleakney 50:44

Very practical training from the Neuma Leadership Development Pathway. Very, very practical. We also have a video that we've uploaded there of an interview I did with Alain Caron on apostolic centers, which ties into what Pastor Ralph was saying.

Glenn Bleakney 51:05

And if you're not familiar with Alain Caron, he's a French Canadian who wrote a book called *Shifting the Church, Transforming the World Apostolic Centers*. And he shares the journey that he went on with his church that he was leading to really move and embrace the five -fold and operate from that sense of apostolic mission and purpose, advancing God's kingdom.

Glenn Bleakney 51:31

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So that book is called Apostolic Centers, Shifting the Church, Transforming the World. Alain Caron. He wrote a second book called Apostolic Expansion, The Kingdom War for Territorial Gains. Both of those books you can grab on Amazon and elsewhere.

Glenn Bleakney 51:48

Amazing books. The interview I did with Alain, we talk on this, and that's available on the Neuma Global Network portal or website.