



## Greg Lancaster Ministries

*Loving God, Loving Others and Leading Others to do the Same*

[GregLancaster.org/CommandsOfJesus](http://GregLancaster.org/CommandsOfJesus)

### AWAKENING HEALING

#### Session 1 of 6

#### Commanded to Heal: Igniting Bold Faith for the Normal Christian Life

#### Introduction: The Joy of Seeing People Come Alive

Art Thomas begins by warmly welcoming the audience and expressing his excitement about the gathering. He shares how one of his favorite aspects of ministry is witnessing people come alive—both spiritually and physically. This sets the tone for the night: transformation is possible, expected, and biblically grounded.

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#### Testimonies That Stir Faith

Art recounts multiple real-time healing testimonies to stir faith in the room:

- **Macular Degeneration Healed:** An elderly woman who couldn't see from one eye receives healing after prayer—she exclaims, "I can see!" as tears roll down her face.
  - **Deaf Woman Hears Her Son Laugh:** A woman deaf from birth begins hearing for the first time and hears her child laugh—fulfilling her heart's longing.
  - **Stroke Victim Moves Arm Again:** A 112-year-old woman regains movement in an arm paralyzed by strokes and soon begins healing others in Jesus' name.
  - **Cataracts Healed:** A man with 20/200 vision experiences dramatic healing even though Art's own parents had recently undergone cataract surgery without healing—demonstrating the need to minister without letting past results determine present expectation.
  - **Multiple Real-Time Healings:** During the service, individuals report healed knees, feet, joints, goiters shrinking, and restored vision—further reinforcing the truth that Jesus heals today.
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### Theological Foundation: Jesus Commanded Us to Heal

Art shifts from storytelling into direct teaching:

- Jesus never modeled asking the Father to heal. Instead, He *commanded* healing, demonstrating authority (Matthew 10:8).
  - Jesus told His disciples (and by extension, all believers) to *heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons*.
  - Healing isn't an optional ministry for the "anointed few." It's a command tied to making disciples.
  - Every command of Jesus is an invitation into relationship. We can't obey Him apart from Him—whether in healing, loving enemies, or making disciples.
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### Understanding James 5:14–15 – A Misunderstood Passage

Art addresses the common misunderstanding around James 5:

- The passage calls for **elders** (mature believers, not just old people) to care for and pray over the sick—not burden them with performance or introspection.
  - The Greek word often translated “prayer” in this verse is *euchē*, which more accurately means “vow” or “faith-filled declaration.”
  - The “anointing with oil” was likely medicinal and symbolic care—not a mystical act in itself.
  - Key insight: the *responsibility* of healing ministry belongs to the body of Christ—not the sick person.
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### Practical Activation: How to Minister Healing

Art provides simple, biblical instructions for ministering healing:

- **Don't treat conditions as 'big' or 'small.'** Jesus paid the same price for all.



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- **Use your two tools:** power (laying on of hands) and authority (spoken word).
  - **Don't strive—trust.** Faith is surrender, not force.
  - **Pray first like Peter and Paul** (Acts 9, Acts 28), then minister.
  - **Pattern:** Minister → Test it → Respond → Repeat if necessary.
  - Don't quit because of partial results or no change. Jesus ministered twice to a blind man. So can you.
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### Biblical Examples of Healing Procedure

Art shares scriptural examples to support his model:

- **Peter with Dorcas:** He prays first, then commands her to rise.
  - **Paul with Publius' father:** He prays, then lays hands on him and heals him.
  - **Jesus:** Often healed through a word or physical touch, and then had the recipient test the result (“Stretch out your hand,” “Take up your mat and walk”).
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### Live Activation and Corporate Ministry

In the second half of the session:

- The audience is trained and released to minister healing to one another.
  - People are told not to overexplain medical histories—just give a simple, short description.
  - Couples are encouraged not to pray for one another to avoid emotional fatigue or discouragement.
  - Participants begin reporting real-time healings—foot pain gone, knee healed after 3 years, vision restored, joint pain vanishing.
  - Art reminds the crowd: **this is normal Christianity**—healing is for today, and it belongs to all believers.
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### Renewing the Mind: Confronting American Church Culture

Art challenges common misunderstandings:

- Healing isn't earned by striving harder or fasting longer—Jesus already paid for it.
  - Prayer chains are helpful, but numbers don't manipulate God.
  - God is more compassionate than we are—He heals because of His love, not because we've prayed enough times.
  - Many Christians have created systems of excuses based on lack of results, instead of returning to the simplicity of Scripture.
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### Closing Insights: Rest, Trust, and Grow

As the night concludes:

- Art explains that healing doesn't determine your worth or God's love for you.
  - Not being healed doesn't mean God loves someone else more—it means we as the body of Christ are still growing.
  - Every time you step out to minister healing, you are more like Jesus than the time before.
  - The more we walk with Him, the more likely healing is to happen.
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### Final Commission

Art closes with a challenge:

- Healing ministry is not a one-time event—it's a lifestyle.
  - Don't complicate it. Just walk with Jesus, minister simply, and act in faith.
  - This is not a special gift for a few. It's the normal Christian life.
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### **Key Takeaway**

Healing the sick is not a rare spiritual gift—it is part of the Great Commission. Jesus invites every believer to participate in His healing work, not through striving, but through simple faith, surrendered trust, and bold compassion.