

# A RESUME OF REDEMPTION

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THE POWER OF  
PENTECOST



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*17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." [b] 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.*

**Matthew 4:17-22**

The writer recounts the following pertaining to job applications over the years. Feel free to think on your own experiences and share something similar here:

*For nearly 15 years, I applied for all manner of scholarships, college programs, and jobs. Meticulously inputting countless pages of questions and qualifications; rating systems and character assessments all to be asked to provide a resume at the end of that process anyway.*

*These days, resumes are all about buzzwords and analytics; data points and information are ingested by a hundred corporate algorithms to see just how good you look on paper with almost no likelihood that anything close to a breathing, feeling human being will get within a hundred feet of that reference's phone number that you've provided three times in the last fifteen minutes.*

*My 2018 resume contains such gems as:*

- "Budget management expert" and "financial consultant" listed next to that six months where I ran some receipts for a couple hours a day in a small-businesses' QuickBooks program.*
- "Public relations strategies" and "administration" listed next to the time that I stepped in to help with customer service calls at the Apple Store.*
- "Team building", "social counseling", and "crisis management" sit there, blatantly unqualified by any actual work experience.*



When Jesus found Andrew and Simon Peter as He walked along the beach, I don't think it's a stretch to say that no one had seen them as anything more than dirty fishermen like their father or grandfather before them. When you're told every day that you're nothing but smelly, salty, and slimy, you're going to start believing it.

When society and the people around you look you in the eyes day after day and tell you you're broken; tell you you're worthless; tell you you aren't worth saving; when they put you down and tell you you're defined by your addiction, your depression, and your brokenness. "You're a drunk, you're poor, you're talentless and unemployable. It's no wonder that you start to believe it too.

## More Than Your Resume

After years of Simon Peter, Andrew James, and John being put down, Jesus took one look at them and said, "your resume says fishermen. Your resume says sandy, smelly, slimy men. Poor, broken, worthless men. But I see you both as more of fishers of men."

In just a moment their perceptions changed. In the eyes of their Savior, they were no longer just fishermen. The thing that had defined their life for so long was the same thing in which Jesus saw their divine potential to not just change their own lives, but the world. They followed Jesus immediately because He recognized something in them that no one else even cared to look for.

- When you have an encounter with the Savior, there is no scenario in which you do not leave changed.
- When you encounter Jesus, your potential and purpose are elevated well beyond your current position.
- When you look at your resume, you may only see failure and rejection.
- But when Jesus looks at your past, He only sees a resume of redemption.

Have you spent twenty years as an alcoholic? He sees an accountability partner to a new believer. Raised in a broken family? You know what that broken home needs to be healed and restored. Once an addict? Now an expert in helping others break the bonds of abuse and addiction for good.



## Above and Beyond

Jesus is calling you to own your past like never before and walk in faith knowing that maybe the next person you meet isn't by some accident but because you alone have the testimony to show them that they don't have to live in sin and despair anymore. He is in control and He wants all of His children to live a blessed and righteous life. No more pain, no more addiction, no more depression or stress or tears; but of peace, of love, and of a sound mind.

*When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested[a] on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Acts 2:1-4

Today we celebrate Pentecost Sunday: the day that the Holy Ghost was poured out for the first time; the day that Jesus sent His Spirit to live in us and guide us. But we celebrate not because one-hundred and twenty got together to pray.

We celebrate because each of those one-hundred and twenty had a personal experience with Jesus. We celebrate because every individual that had a past, every person that was broken, bound, afraid, addicted, lost, and fallen made the decision that they were through living the way they used to live; they were done accepting the word of the enemy and were ready to walk in the promise and purpose of the Most-High God, Jesus Christ.

I've got a group of some sixty young adults back home that leave changed every single week because they aren't ready to settle for the home-life that they were dealt or the addictions that run in their families. I got kids that were homeless and hopeless until they found Jesus. They're in the Word of God, in prayer, every day, making their own path as the Spirit of the Living God goes before them.

