

# Acts 7:54

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

## Analysis

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The Sanhedrin's response - 'cut to the heart' and 'gnashed on him with their teeth' - reveals rage rather than repentance. Being 'cut to the heart' here produced fury, not conviction (contrast Acts 2:37). Their violence confirmed Stephen's indictment of persistent rebellion.

## Historical Context

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Teeth-gnashing expressed murderous rage (Psalm 35:16, 37:12). The council's loss of judicial composure showed Stephen's speech hit its mark - they couldn't refute his argument, only silence him.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. Why did the same phrase 'cut to the heart' produce repentance at Pentecost but rage here?
2. What distinguishes conviction that leads to repentance from that which hardens?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἀκούοντες δὲ ταῦτα διεπρίοντο ταῖς καρδίαις αὐτόν  
**they heard** **When** **these things** **they were cut** G3588 G2588 **him**  
G191 G1161 G5023 G1282

καὶ ἔβρυχον τοὺς ὀδόντας ἐπ' αὐτόν  
**and** **they gnashed** G3588 **with their teeth** **on** **him**  
G2532 G1031 G3599 G1909 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 5:33** (Parallel theme): When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

**Psalms 35:16** (Parallel theme): With hypocritical mockers in feasts, they gnashed upon me with their teeth.

**Job 16:9** (Parallel theme): He teareth me in his wrath, who hateth me: he gnasheth upon me with his teeth; mine enemy sharpeneth his eyes upon me.

**Matthew 25:30** (Parallel theme): And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**Matthew 13:50** (Parallel theme): And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

**Luke 13:28** (Parallel theme): There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

