



How Being Cut To The Heart Changes The World.

Acts 2:32-41

Peter's sermon
And the Holy Spirit

³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. ³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. . . . ³⁶ Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Have you ever wondered how a group of uneducated people, with zero power, zero financial resources, energized a movement that swept over the Roman Empire in just a few short decades?

"We can't stop these Christians. The reason they're so popular is the Jews take care of the Jewish poor. The Greeks take care of the Greek poor. The Romans take care of the Roman poor. The Christians take care of them all."
Roman Emperor Julian

Why did Christianity succeed?

- They died well under persecution
- They integrated rich/poor; men/women; Jews/Gentiles
- They cared for everyone as attested to by Emperor Julian

Kenneth Scott Latourette, former head of Yale divinity school wrote:
"The more one examines the various factors which seem to account for the extraordinary victory of Christianity the more one is driven to search for a cause underlying them all. It is clear that at the very beginning of Christianity there must have occurred a vast release of energy virtually unequalled in history. Without it the future course of the religion is inexplicable. "Why this occurred may lie outside the realm in which modern historians are supposed to move."

Modern historians are supposed to move is a nice way of saying we don't deal in the supernatural.

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.
Acts 2:2-4

The Spirit of God came down and as a result of this and Peter's message *When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart Acts 2:37*

Jesus: *"When the Spirit comes into the world, He will convict the world of sin and righteousness."*
John 16:8

I. What causes this spiritual cutting?

Verse 32 *"God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact."*

Verse 36 *"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*

"...after he was risen from the dead, he appeared to scores of people. He appeared at one point to 500 people at once."
1 Corinthians 15:6

But to be cut to the heart, you realize your sins aren't just about breaking the rules, but there about having broken God's heart.

Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." ⁶²And he went outside and wept bitterly.
Luke 22:60-62

The heart is everything when it comes to God.

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't look at how handsome Eliab is or how tall he is, because I have not chosen him. God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

II. What is the result of spiritual cutting?

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"
Acts 2:37

What does Peter say?

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.
Acts 2:38

- You're removed from the penalty of sin.

The very thing that convicts us (our sin) is the thing that comforts us.

How? Jesus dying on the cross should tell you, *"I'm terribly sinful if this is what He had to go through for me to be forgiven.."* But it tells you, how much you mean to Him, by what He suffered for you on the cross.

Being cut to the heart leads us to repent as well.

- You're being removed from the power of sin.
"Repent and be baptized Acts 2:38

"I'd better obey or he'll reject me."

Instead of that, what if you look at Him on the cross, and say,
"I need to obey because he won't reject me."