

# Isaiah 58:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

## Analysis

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This verse promises God's continual guidance and provision to those who live righteously (context: genuine fasting, caring for the poor, avoiding sin). 'The LORD shall guide thee continually'—not occasional direction but constant leading, moment by moment divine guidance for life's journey. 'Satisfy thy soul in drought'—even in difficult seasons (spiritual, emotional, or physical 'drought'), God provides deep soul satisfaction. 'Make fat thy bones'—a Hebrew idiom for health, vitality, and strength; God provides vigor and wellness. The similes conclude the verse: 'like a watered garden'—flourishing, fruitful, beautiful versus barren; 'like a spring of water, whose waters fail not'—a reliable, unfailing source of life, refreshment, and blessing to others.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Israel's geography made water imagery powerful—the difference between desert and garden was water availability. Watered gardens (like Eden) represented paradise, while drought meant death. Unfailing springs were treasured landmarks, gathering places, and life-sources for communities. Isaiah contrasts hypocritical religious practice (mere external fasting) with genuine righteousness demonstrated through justice, mercy, and compassion. Those who live

authentically righteous lives experience God's continual guidance, provision, and blessing, regardless of external circumstances.

## Related Passages

## **Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith**

## James 2:17 – Faith and works

## Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between external religious performance and the genuine righteousness God desires that unlocks these promises?
2. In what ways do you need God's guidance, soul satisfaction, and strength right now, and how might pursuing genuine righteousness position you to receive these promises?

## Interlinear Text

בְּצִחְצֹחוֹת	בְּצִחְצֹחַ	וְהַשְׁבֵּעַ	תִּמְאִיד	יְהֹוָה	וְגַדְעָב
in drought	thy soul	and satisfy	thee continually	And the LORD	shall guide
H6710	H5315	H7646	H8548	H3068	H5148
כִּי הַ	כִּי הַ	יָסַל יְצֵא	יְהֹוָה יְמִת	וְעַצְמַת יְבָשָׂה	thy bones
H7302	H1588	H1961	H2502	and make fat	thy bones
הַשְׁבֵּעַ	גַּדְעָב	יְהֹוָה	וְעַצְמַת יְבָשָׂה	and thou shalt be like a watered	garden
H4161	H4325	H834	H3808	H3576	H4325
מִקְמִינָה	וְכָמֹזֵעַ	לֹא אָשָׁר	וְכָזֵב וְ	מִקְמִינָה	and like a spring
of water	of water	fail	fail	of water	of water

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 4:14** (Parallel theme): But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

**Jeremiah 31:12** (References Lord): Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.

**Psalms 32:8** (Parallel theme): I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

**Isaiah 49:10** (Parallel theme): They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

**John 16:13** (Parallel theme): Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

**Psalms 25:9** (Parallel theme): The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

**Song of Solomon 4:15**: A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.

**Proverbs 3:8** (Parallel theme): It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

**Proverbs 11:25** (Parallel theme): The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

**Ezekiel 36:35** (Parallel theme): And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.