

# Psalm 51:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

## Analysis

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The plea for joy: 'Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.' Sin has not only brought guilt but destroyed joy. David's 'bones' (deepest being) feel broken by divine judgment. Restored joy will come from hearing God's word of forgiveness.

## Historical Context

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The imagery of broken bones describes the physical and emotional toll of unconfessed sin (cf. Psalm 32:3-4). Joy requires God's healing word, not just forgetting.

## Related Passages

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

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

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does unconfessed sin affect us physically and emotionally?

2. What is the 'joy and gladness' David needs to hear?

## Interlinear Text

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עָצָם וֹתֶת תְּגַלֵּנָה וְשָׁמַחַת הַשְׁשׁוֹן תְּשִׁמְעֵנִי  
Make me to hear joy and gladness may rejoice that the bones

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דָּקִיתָן

which thou hast broken

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## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 5:4** (Parallel theme): Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

**Psalms 35:10** (Parallel theme): All my bones shall say, LORD, who is like unto thee, which deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him, yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him?

**Luke 4:18** (Parallel theme): The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

**Psalms 38:3** (Parallel theme): There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin.

**Psalms 30:11** (Parallel theme): Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;

**Isaiah 35:10** (Parallel theme): And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Psalms 13:5** (Parallel theme): But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.

