

# A Prayer for Wisdom in Economic Development

## **Scripture Reading:**

Psalm 111, Genesis 41:47-57

"Development is about transforming the lives of people, not just transforming economies." ~ Joseph Stiglitz

## **ONE Prayer:**

Gracious Father, we thank You for providing a way for Your children to survive and thrive though economic development. Thank You for taking care of us and supplying all of our needs from Your glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Thank You for having plans for us, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give us a future and a hope. You are a great God and a great King above all gods. You hold in Your hands the depths of the earth and the mightiest mountains. The sea belongs to You, for You made it. Your hands formed the dry land, too. We worship and bow down. We kneel before You our maker, for You are our God. We are the people You watch over, the flock under Your care. We listen to Your voice today!

Almighty Father, we decree that economic development leaders in nonprofit and for-profit businesses and organizations, government and social entities will get wisdom -- the wisest thing they can do -- and whatever else they do, develop good judgement. We confess that those leaders who want to be wise and understand Your ways, will prove it by living honorable lives, doing good works that come from wisdom. We declare that our leaders have not been given a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love and self-discipline. They will work to ensure that there is a mighty flood of justice and an endless river of righteous living within the economic development system. When they do, we expect the well-being and quality of life for all people in communities around the world to improve through efforts that include the adequate distribution of wealth, diversification of industries, spending of taxes and government funds on public goods, equal pay for equal work, and access to quality education, jobs, neighborhoods, food, roads, water and public safety. We declare that our leaders will not get tired of doing what is good. For at the right time, they will reap a harvest of blessing if they don't give up. They will never be lazy, but work hard and serve You enthusiastically.

Magnificent Father, help economic development leaders to see that the decisions they make and the interests they pursue individually and collectively contribute to the economic health of their communities and the global marketplace. Touch their hearts to be on one accord, merciful and loving in their efforts to build and sustain ethical and successful businesses, create and retain jobs, enact and enforce just and fair laws, improve living conditions and champion peace and prosperity locally and around the world. Remind them that they and those they serve are all one in Christ Jesus, and that the needs of each person, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, social standing or financial capability, should be considered as they advance economic development. In turn, show people in our community ways in which they can support economic development leaders and help better the quality of living for their communities and the world at large.

## ***Holy Spirit, show me how I can pray for and support economic development:***

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Righteous Father, forgive economic development leaders for all acts of sinfulness. Forgive those who have not been diligent in seeking Your leadership for their business, organizational, governmental and social practices. Forgive those who do not trust in You and Your wisdom; but rely on their own limited human understanding. Forgive those who have compromised Your Word in order to make a profit. Forgive those who have not treated their employees and constituents fairly and have given priority to people with wealth and privilege. Forgive those who have not properly taken care of or shown respect for the community they live in. Lord, forgive me for ***(list any sins that you have committed)***. Holy Spirit, remind economic development leaders of those they need to forgive and help them to be quick to forgive. ***(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to show you names or faces of people that you may need to forgive. As He shows you, say aloud, "I forgive name of person(s)."*** Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in your soul caused by unforgiveness.)

Holy Spirit, help economic development leaders to not yield to temptation; but deliver them from the evil one.

Almighty God, You are awesome in Your sanctuary. O God of Israel, You give power and strength to Your people. Sovereign Lord, You are great! You are robed in majesty. You are the eternal King. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture References for the Written Text:** Philippians 4:19, Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 95:3-7, Proverbs 4:7, James 3:13, II Timothy 1:7, Amos 5:24, Galatians 6:9-10, Romans 12:11, Matthew 6:13, Psalm 68:35, Psalm 93:1

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