

# An Economic Development Prayer for Sports Leaders and Participants

## **Scripture Reading:**

Psalm 104:24-34, Genesis 41:47-57

## **Reflections of the Heart:**

“Business is a critical enabler of inclusive economic growth and job creation which is key to unlocking human potential and poverty reduction.” ~ Paul Polman, Chairman, World Business Council for Sustainable Development and CEO of Unilever

## **ONE Prayer:**

Gracious Father, we thank You for providing a way for sports industry leaders and participants to survive and thrive through economic development. Thank You for multiple streams of income and sources of employment within sports, including entrance tickets, food and drink concessions and merchandise sales. Thank You for creating advertising, endorsement deals, sports trading card and memorabilia sectors to prosper sports participants. Thank You for taking care of them and supplying all of their needs from Your glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Thank You for having plans for sports leaders and participants — plans for good and not for disaster, to give them 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 also formed the dry land. 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 economic development and success among sports industry leaders and participants. We confess that they will be wise and understand Your ways. They will prove it by living honorable lives, doing good works that come from wisdom. By faith, we declare that they do not have a spirit of fear and timidity, but power, love and self-discipline. Sports leaders and participants will work to ensure that there is a mighty flood of justice and an endless river of righteous living within their economic development system. When they do, we expect the well-being and quality of life for their communities around the world to improve through their efforts, with results that include adequate distribution of wealth, stadiums and infrastructure, spending of tax revenue on public goods and services, equal pay for equal work, and access to quality education, jobs and neighborhoods. We declare that they will not get tired of doing what is good, for at the right time, if they don't give up, they will reap a harvest of blessing. They will never be lazy, but work hard and serve enthusiastically.

Holy Spirit, help sports industry leaders understand that the interests they pursue and decisions they make individually and collectively contribute to the economic health of their communities and the global marketplace. Spur them and their organizations to launch innovative outreach programs that meet the needs of underserved communities. 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, support the enactment and enforcement of just and fair regulations and safety practices, improve living conditions and champion peace and prosperity. Remind them that the needs of each person they serve, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, social standing or financial capability, should be considered as they advance economically. In turn, show them ways in which they can support stronger economies and improve the quality of life for their communities and the world at large.

## **Holy Spirit, reveal how I can pray for and support economic development in the sports industry:**

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Righteous Father, forgive sports leaders and participants for all acts of sinfulness. Forgive those who have not been diligent in seeking Your leadership for their business, organizational, and social practices. Forgive those who do not trust in You nor 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 but have given priority to people with wealth and privilege. Forgive those who have not properly taken care of or shown respect for the communities where their enterprise operates. Lord, forgive me for **(list any sins that you have committed)**. Holy Spirit, remind sports leaders and participants of those they

need to forgive and help them to forgive. ***(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal names or faces of people that you may need to forgive. As He reveals them to you, say, "I forgive name of person(s)." Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in your soul caused by unforgiveness.)***

Holy Spirit, help sports leaders and participants not to yield to temptation but deliver them from the evil one.

Omnipotent God, how great are Your riches and wisdom and knowledge! You are the God who does great things too marvelous to understand. It is You who performs countless miracles. We praise You, Lord! Let everyone on earth bless Your Holy Name forever and ever! Everything comes from You and exists by Your power and is intended for Your glory. All glory to You forever. 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, Romans 11:33a, Job 5:9, Psalm 145:21, Romans 11:36

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