

# A PRAYER FOR THE HOUSTON METROPOLITAN AREA

## A Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving Group B

Faithful Father, we thank You for the Houston Metropolitan Area. Thank You for our city officials, first Responders, public works employees and everyone who helps with the day-to-day operation of this city. Thank You for the citizens of this great city. Father, You have blessed our city to provide some of the world's best medical care, the most advanced technology, and one of the most prosperous business centers in the world. Matter of fact, we realize that our nation has more abundance than any place in the world. For this, we are thankful. Thank You for blessing our city to continue to prosper during lean times. Thank You for providing safety and protection. Thank You for Your unlimited provision. As citizens of this city, we thank You, Lord, for this glorious day!

Wonderful Father, we thank You for our family relationships. We thank You for singles, the institution of marriage and parenthood. Lord, we thank You for fulfilling Your plans and purposes in our lives and for surrounding us with Your favor like a shield. Thank You for providing safety and protection for our families. Thank You, Father, for Your love and compassion. Thank You for blessing our city to continue to prosper.

Awesome Father, we give thanks to You for Your wondrous works declare that Your Name is near. Lord, we thank You for salvation, the greatest miracle of all. Thank You for Your eternal love and unmerited grace. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to break the power of the devil and to bring us hope, health, and healing. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who leads, guides, and comforts us. Lord, You are good and Your mercy endures forever.

Glorious Father, You merely spoke and the heavens were created, You breathed the word and all of the stars were born. You assigned boundaries to the seas and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs. Let the whole world fear You and let everyone stand in awe of You! For when You spoke, the world began! It appeared at Your command. You are great and most worthy of praise. You are to be feared above all gods. Lord, we praise You with our whole hearts. We will tell of all Your marvelous works. We will be glad and rejoice in You; we will sing praises to Your Name.

Our Father, You are a great God, and a great King above all other gods. You are our God and we are the people of Your pasture, and the sheep of Your hand. Lord, You are our source and in You do we place our trust. We praise Your Name forever and ever, for You possess all wisdom and power. You control the course of world events. You remove kings and set up other kings. You give wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. You reveal deep and mysterious things and know what lays hidden in darkness, though You are surrounded by light. The earth is Yours, and everything that is in it; the world and all its people belong to You. You laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths. Father, we bless Your Holy Name. We will proclaim Your unfailing love in the morning and Your faithfulness in the evening. As the heavens are high above the earth, so great is Your mercy toward those who fear You. We cry out with a loud voice, **“Thanks be to our God.”**

**Scripture References for the Written Text:** Psalm 5:12, Psalm 75:1, Psalm 118:1, Psalm 33:6-9, Psalm 96:4, Psalm 9:1-2, Psalm 95:3,7, Daniel 2:20-22, Psalm 24:1-2, Psalm 92:2, Psalm 103:11

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## **A Prayer of Declaration of God's Will**

Almighty Father, we know that the nation whose God is the Lord is blessed, so we declare today that the Houston Metropolitan Area, is a city that worships the living God. We confess that we are a city that will love You, Lord, with all of our hearts, souls, minds and strength. We will love our neighbors and we will love ourselves. We declare that we are a city that trusts in You, and practices good works. We will live safely in the land and prosper. We expect blessings to rest upon the business, educational, political, judicial, social, technological, and health systems in our city. Lord, we declare that we are a city that acknowledges Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Father, let Your Kingdom come and Your will be done in the Houston Metropolitan Area as it is in heaven. We decree that as residents of our great city, we will walk worthy of the calling which You have called us, with all humility, gentleness, longsuffering; bearing with one another in love. We will keep the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace. We will let our light shine so that people will see our good works and glorify You, our Heavenly Father. We declare that the people in our communities will depart from evil, and do good; they will seek peace and pursue it. As they do this, we confess that Your peace will be within our walls and prosperity will be within our houses. Lord, we confess that we will sleep in peace in our homes. We believe that You alone will make us dwell in safety. We declare that the citizens of our city will not fear, but they will trust in You, the Lord.

Holy Father, today we acknowledge that You created the nuclear family unit. It is Your will for our families to grow and thrive. We declare that God's peace, safety, stability, salvation, love, wisdom and knowledge will dwell within the homes of our families. We destroy the assignments of the spirits of terrorism, destruction, poverty, perversion, greed, and injustice.

We confess that husbands will love their wives as Christ loves the Church and wives will respect their husbands. We decree that husbands and wives are strong in the Lord and they lead their homes with God-confidence. We declare that single moms and dads can do all things through Christ who strengthens them and they will lead their homes with God-confidence. We decree that our children will be successful everywhere and an entire generation of godly people will be blessed. By faith, our children are obedient to authority, for this is right in Your sight. No weapons formed against our families will prosper and God will reign supreme in our homes and in our family relationships.

In Jesus' Name, our sons will flourish like well-nurtured plants and our daughters will be like graceful pillars, carved to beautify a place. We confess that our barns are filled with crops of every kind; the flocks in our field multiply by the thousands; and our oxen will be loaded down with produce. No enemy will break through our walls; the citizens in our communities will not be held captive and there will be no cries of alarm in our town squares. Father, Your Word promises that our lives will be joyful when we live like this. We will experience this joy in our city because God is our Lord! May God be merciful and bless us. May His face smile with favor on us. May God's ways be known throughout the earth and His saving power dwell among the Houston Metropolitan Area.

**Scripture References for the Written Text:** Psalm 33:12, Luke 10:27, Psalm 37:3, Matthew 6:10, Ephesians 4:1-3, Matthew 5:16, Psalm 34:14, Psalm 122:7, Psalm 4:8, Psalm 56:4, Ephesians 5:25, Ephesians 6:10, Philippians 4:13, Psalm 112:2, Ephesians 6:1, Isaiah 54:17, Psalm 144:12-15, Psalm 67:1-2

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## A Prayer for God's Assistance

Gracious Father, have mercy on our city. We ask You to repair any breaches in the hedge of protection that is built around our city. Holy Spirit, let Your power and presence prevail throughout our great nation. Please expose every evil plot against our city and nation. Touch the heart of the Body of Christ in the Houston Metropolitan Area to be a "light that sits upon the hill" in this country. Stir the hearts of every Christian to represent Your love, forgiveness and grace in their daily living. Convict those Christians who are lukewarm and give them the courage and joy to stand for holiness and righteousness.

We ask You, Holy Spirit, to lead and guide all of our local, state, and national leaders, including Mayor Annise Parker, Governor Rick Perry, and President Barack Obama. Please fill them with Your wisdom, knowledge, confidence, and peace. Help them in their personal and professional lives to make decisions that align with Your will for our city, state and nation. Please lead all of our city officials and public service personnel, including council members, county commissioners, judges, law enforcement officials and emergency response teams. Strengthen all of them and keep them healthy.

Omnipotent Father, bless our educators. Help them to remain committed to their educational "calling." Increase their creativity and innovation to teach our students. We ask You to touch the hearts of our local, state and federal legislators to increase funding and resources that are badly needed in our independent school systems and institutions of higher learning. Holy Spirit, increase the capacity of our students to learn, comprehend and excel in all areas of education, including reading, mathematics, sciences, and the arts.

Abba Father, continue to help our city during this economic downturn. We admit that we have not always been prudent or wise with our finances. Please, break the bondage of conspicuous consumption over our city. Show us how to be more disciplined and better stewards of the resources You have blessed us with. Remind us to count our blessings and be content with what we have instead of always wanting more. Holy Spirit, reveal godly economic strategies to our city's economists and financial visionaries that will bolster financial stability and security within a global economy. Father, there are many people in our city who are in financial trouble. Many need a miracle in their finances. We ask humbly for Your divine intervention. God of Heaven's Armies, please rescue people from financial ruin. For those who are unemployed, please help them to not grow weary or discouraged. As they lean not to their own understanding, but acknowledge You in all their ways, we ask Father, that You will lead and guide them to employment in Jesus' Name.

Spirit of the Living God, we ask You to clear the way so that Your Gospel may be preached in our city. Since the harvest is plentiful, please send laborers to proclaim Your Word of salvation to (*list names of people you know who have not confessed Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.*) Father, as Your Word goes forth, touch the hearts of the unsaved to receive Your gift of salvation. Remove the darkness that keeps them from seeing You and receiving You. Father, use me as an answer to this prayer and give me Your courage and boldness to talk to nonbelievers about Your love and salvation.

Holy Spirit, please knit our families closer together. Empower mothers and fathers, whether married or single, to be good parents, providers, protectors, and leaders of their homes. Help our families to be patient and forgiving. Heal broken relationships and enhance healthy relationships. Let Your love, peace, wisdom, and understanding saturate our families.

**Scripture References for the Written Text:** Job 1:10, Matthew 5:14, I Timothy 2:2, Colossians 1:9, Proverb3:5-6, Matthew 9:37

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## A Prayer for Forgiveness

*Holy and Righteous Father, we come humbly before You, seeking Your face and committing to turn from our wicked ways so that You, Lord God, can heal our land.* Forgive us as a city for our many sins. We admit that we have been a sinful city that has committed institutional and personal acts of sinfulness. We are weighted down with iniquity. In Your great compassion, please blot out the stains of the sins of our city. Wash us clean from our guilt and purify us from our sins. In many places, Father, Your Church is looked upon with disdain by those we seek to reach. Break our hearts over that Father, and forgive us for **our** hypocrisy. Forgive the Church for not always being the Body of Christ that You have called us to be for such a time as this. Have mercy upon us as a city.

Incredible Father, renew in us a commitment to be a force for justice and forgive those who continue to commit injustices. Forgive us for caring more about our own comfort and convenience than we do about caring for those who are oppressed in our city. Stir in us a passion to be a force for good in the lives of children who go to bed hungry at night. Forgive us for a 50 percent divorce rate that has impacted two generations and threatens to affect a third generation.

Forgive us for putting the pursuit of material possessions above the needs of our spouses and our children and for pursuing self-fulfillment above self-sacrifice in our families. Forgive us, Lord, for the excessive consumption of the earth's resources while Your children in many parts of the world are dying of hunger, AIDS, and other pandemic diseases that are curable. Forgive us for our sexual sins and for participating in the sexualizing of our culture by the products we purchase, the clothes we wear, and the sites we visit on the Internet. Renew in us a commitment to sexual purity and to holiness.

Merciful Father, we are only fooling ourselves as a city to think that we are consistently obeying Your commands, trusting Your leadership, and following Your instructions. We know that we have not always represented Christ as a body of believers. We admit that sin continues to increase in our city. We acknowledge our sinfulness and we ask You to have mercy upon us. Please forgive us for all acts of sinfulness, including oppression, greed, racism, sexism, ageism, elitism, deceit, lying, selfish ambitions, lawlessness, rebellion, violence, hatred, partiality and slander. Father, please have mercy upon us and do not take Your Holy Spirit from us. We need You, although we do not always act as if we need You. You are our strong tower; without You we will perish.

On this special day, we ask You to create in us, as believers, as Your Church in this city, and as Your Church in this nation, a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

Loving Father, forgive me for *(Take a moment right now and say aloud any sins that you have committed)*. Holy Spirit, remind us all of those we need to forgive and help us to be quick to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. *(Take a moment right now 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.)*

Worthy Father, help us to not yield to temptation; but deliver us from the evil one.

**Scripture References for the Written Text:** II Chronicles 7:14, Isaiah 1:4, Psalm 51:1-2, 10-11, Matthew 6:13

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## **A Prayer of Praise and Adoration**

Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness. The power and the glory, the victory and the majesty, for all that is in heaven and in earth, is Yours. Yours is the Kingdom, O Lord and You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might. In Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. Now, therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious Name.

You alone are the Lord. You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars. You made the earth and the seas and everything in them. You preserve and give life to everything, and all the angels of heaven worship You.

All heaven will praise Your miracles, Lord. Myriads of angels will praise You for Your faithfulness. Who in all of heaven can compare with You, Lord? What mightiest angel is anything like You? The highest angelic powers stand in awe of You. You are far more awesome than those who surround Your throne, O Lord God Almighty! Where is there anyone as mighty as You, Lord? Faithfulness is Your very character.

Great and marvelous are Your actions, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are Your ways, King of the nations. Who will not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your Name? You alone are Holy. All nations will come and worship before You, for Your righteous deeds have been revealed.

Holy, Holy, Holy are You, the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is filled with Your glory!

Lord, You are King! Let the earth rejoice! Let the farthest islands be glad. Clouds and darkness surround You. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne. A fire goes forth before You and burns up all Your foes. Your lightning flashes out across the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax before You; before You, the Lord of all the earth. The heavens declare Your righteousness; every nation sees Your glory. Those who worship idols and brag about their worthless gods are disgraced; for every god must bow to You. Jerusalem has heard and rejoiced, and all the cities of Judah are glad because of Your justice, Lord! You, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods.

Lord, You are King! Let the nations tremble! Lord, You sit on Your throne between the cherubim. Let the whole earth quake! Lord, You sit in majesty in Jerusalem, supreme above all the nations. We praise Your great and awesome Name. Your Name is holy!

You, the Lord, are a great God. You are the great King above all gods. You own the depths of the earth, and even the mightiest mountains are Yours. The sea belongs to You, for You made it. Your hands formed the dry land, too. Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before You, the Lord, our maker.

Open up, ancient gates! Open up, ancient doors, and let the King of glory enter. Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, invincible in battle. Open up, ancient gates! Open up, ancient doors, and let the King of glory enter. Who is the King of glory? The Lord Almighty, He is the King of glory.

**In Jesus' Name, Amen.**

**Scripture References for the Written Text:** I Chronicles 29:10-13, Nehemiah 9:6, Psalm 89:5-8, Revelation 15:3-4, Isaiah 6:3, Psalm 97:1-9, Psalm 99:1-3, Psalm 95:3-6, Psalm 24:7-10

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