

# Benediction

August Alsina

Started off in the streets  
We would take collection from the fiends  
People dyin' all around me  
So I gave you my testimony  
We were down from the beginnin'  
When the world wasn't listenin'  
Now that I got your attention  
Let us end with the benediction

We are gathered here today  
Paying our respects to bein' broke, hope he's in a better place  
Cause life out here ain't sweet, oh no  
I would close my eyes to sleep but didn't dream no more  
So I had to make a way for my home, you know  
Now I'm in a place where I ain't gotta scheme no more  
The good life, I'm done with the hood life  
I did what I could didn't always do what I should and I was misunderstood  
So many nights I tried  
To hide how I felt, I would cry inside  
And I ran through the streets till my feet got tired  
Cause I ain't wanna have my shoes on them power lines

But I made it, and it made me  
I know I did wrong, I pray to God he forgave me  
Cause I made it, it didn't kill me  
So it made me stronger, I pray to God that you feel me, that you feel me...

Started off in the streets  
We would take collection from the fiends  
People dyin' all around me  
So I gave you my testimony  
We were down from the beginnin'  
When the world wasn't listenin'  
Now that I got your attention  
Let us end with the benediction

Our father who art in heaven  
I pray you free me from my demons and keep me level  
I know you kept my out of prison where I was headin'  
When I heard someone killed my brother, one-eighty-seven  
I hope he made it to your presence, for me he was a blessin'  
At least I know he's restin' and he ain't out here stressin'  
Tryna get to the good life, and out of this hood life  
I pray that my step-pops lay off that crack pipe  
So mama could sleep at night, I know it's been hard on her  
I was ripping through the streets, it was hard for her  
Now I'm up in hotels on the ocean shore  
When I was sleepin' on the floor at the corner store

But I made it, and it made me  
I know I did wrong, I pray to God he forgave me  
Cause I made it, it didn't kill me  
So it made me stronger, I pray to God that you feel me, that you feel me...

Started off in the streets  
We would take collection from the fiends  
People dyin' all around me

So I gave you my testimony  
We were down from the beginnin'  
When the world wasn't listenin'  
Now that I got your attention  
Let us end with the benediction

Bottle after bottle, snatching Belaire out the bucket  
Rightin' all my wrongs for these homies out here thuggin'  
Pray for benediction, pretty women on my premise  
Condo out in Cabo, screaming "GABOS" to my nemesis  
Gold around my neck I'm ballin' for these final minutes  
Nothing lasts forever, for these sins I seek repentance  
Shots fired, another gone, I feel that man's pain  
Daddy sat me down and said: "that came with the game"  
Shake my head, roll up the window, turnin' up the music  
So much anger in these songs for these soldiers that we losin'  
A mastermind is one who's feedin' others off his talent  
I owe it to my city but it's time I pay my balance  
I'm in Holyfield's estate, I started with a pallet  
I made my first tape, I gave that shit to Khaled  
Thankful for my supporters, everyone that ever bought us  
Grateful for every lesson these by any streets taught us

Started off in the streets  
We would take collection from the fiends  
People dyin' all around me  
So I gave you my testimony  
We were down from the beginnin'  
When the world wasn't listenin'  
Now that I got your attention  
Let us end with the benediction