

Letter of Gratitude to Robert

Dear Robert,

You are the clearest glimpse of God's mercy I've ever seen in a man.

You've stood beside me in the worst seasons of my life—not just present, but present with compassion. When I've been in the dark, you didn't shine a spotlight on my shame or lecture me from higher ground. You came and sat in the mud with me. You never once acted like you were above me, even when I knew, deep down, I had no excuse. You've never said, "I told you so." You've never used my weakness as a weapon.

What's more, you've never withheld your own sin. You speak of your struggles like a man who's been there—and still is. And because of that, I've never felt like a project to you. I've felt like a brother.

There are people in my life who've vanished when things got too dark. You never did. You never pulled away when it got heavy. You just kept showing up. When I've failed, you've grieved with me. When I've been blessed, you've rejoiced like it was your own victory.

You've reminded me of who I am when I couldn't see it. You've seen me when I was invisible to myself. Over and over again, your love has felt like the mercy of God breaking through the fog.

If this life were only about survival, I might've gotten by without you. But because there's something more—something eternal, something about love and grace and the weight of our souls—I don't know where I'd be without you.

I just wanted you to know.

With love,
Joseph