



Dear Bob,

Thank you for the opportunity to go through the Masters Program! It's been transformational to my thinking, and general outlook of my role in advancing the Kingdom. A friend invited me to join the program about 5 years ago, and I was reluctant at the time. However, he asked me again three years ago, and of course God's timing is impeccable. When I started the program I had been through two very challenging years.

I sold my business in 2006, and within four months went from a mountain high professionally, to a valley low. It seemed like everything I touched fell apart, and I began to realize how much of my self worth was wrapped up in what I did for a living (about three sessions in I would learn that I was actually in the doldrums). At the same time markets were crumbling, and assets were being erased. So, when I started the program God was already in the process of taking me through a pretty major paradigm shift in my own life. The Masters Program was a continuation of what God wanted to teach me.

Our time here on earth is so short. What a tragedy it would be to squander it! The Masters Program has helped me learn how to be focused and intentional. Over three years you have shown me the process to be used to the fullest for the Kingdom. I enjoyed learning how to first build a solid foundation. Then create the capacity for God to use you, and ask Him to do it. I loved learning how to use leverage to maximize the impact of our time, talent and treasure. And the concept of building influence.

You challenged me and encouraged me to find, and hone my God given gifts to their fullest. Thank you for the validation that as leaders, we may be wired a little differently. We may not fit the "mold" the way we are supposed to, and that is just where God wants us. You stoked a fire to join God in the true adventure that He has for me! A boring life is just that... boring. I look forward to joining you and other Masters grads on this journey. A relentless pursuit of God's calling for our lives. May His Kingdom come, here on earth as it is in Heaven.

Carpe diem!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Russell".

John Russell

PS At first I thought... wow 12 sessions over three years, but looking back it was perfect. Spreading the material into quarterly sessions allows it to actually get woven into my daily outlook on life, God and purpose.