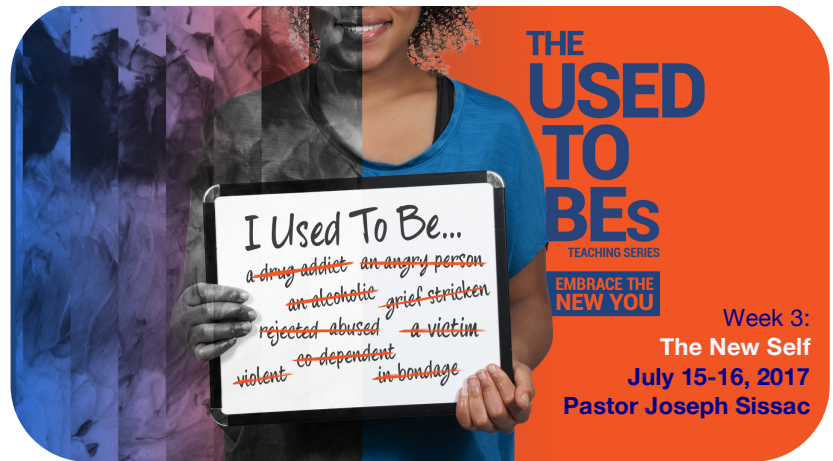


## Learning Objectives:

1. Briefly review another Biblical Used-to-Be[s].
2. Gain further insight into the personal [in]vestment of gratitude.
3. Learn of another key to daily New-Self living.



## Biblical Used-to-Be[s]

Moses was a Used-to-Be an Egyptian prince, a murderer, a fugitive and fearful. He became a leader, prophet and a savior to a nation. He fell from being a Used-to-Be when he disobeyed God. The life and ministry of Moses again reveals to us the how gracious and merciful God is to the broken. **God makes us Used-to-Be[s]. God uses Used-to-Be[s].** Being a Used-to-Be reveals that the God we serve is loving, forgiving, merciful, gracious, redemptive and all-powerful.

## The Personal [In]Vestment of Gratitude

Romans 8:5-8, 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Being grateful radically changes your mind set. The old self is according to the flesh and is “hostile toward God”. The new self is in agreement with the Spirit and leads to “life and peace”. **Gratitude refocuses your mental energy of God and all that is good in your life. BEING GRATEFUL simultaneously resists and silences and old self and empowers and gives voice the new self.** If we live according to 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19, we will take on a posture of gratitude toward in EVERYTHING.

### Discussion Point

1. Moses’ relationship with God was that of a friend talking to a friend. In what ways do you relate to Moses: his past, God using him, his failure?

Romans 8:5-8

<sup>5</sup>For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, <sup>7</sup>because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

#proudUsed2B

Philippians 2:1-13

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; <sup>4</sup>do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

<sup>8</sup>Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

#### Discussion Point

2. How does having gratitude alter the way you react or respond to adverse circumstances? Why is this New Self mentality?
3. Submitting your will to God's is like trading in your agenda for His, but in every aspect of life. How do you start and continue to be submissive to God? How do you know it's His will, not your own?

#### FactorPoints

**He's Here — Worship:** Give God praise and adoration for continually and miraculously working in you to accomplish His will in your life.

**He Knows — Learn:** Look for other examples in scripture of Used-to-Be[s] who experienced dramatic transformation, walking with gratitude and submitting their wills to the Lord.

**He's Able — Serve:** Start a gratitude journal and develop the habit of giving thanks in EVERYTHING.

## Another Key to Daily New-Self Living

Philippians 2:1-13

After giving instruction to the church at Ephesus on how to live as Used-to-Be[s], Paul another powerful truth and key to putting on the New Self: *“work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and and to work for His good pleasure.”*

The New-Self living key is *“Submitting YOUR will to GOD's will.”* This experience is full of fear and trembling, because *“it is God who is at work in you”*. If we were to be at God's side while He created the heavens and the earth, it would be a fearful and trembling experience. If we had the great privilege of witnessing the miracles of the Old Testament it would be a fearful and trembling experience. If any of us had the great privilege of witnessing the birth, death and especially the resurrection of Christ, it would have certainly been a fearful (reverent) and trembling experience.

It is at a level of fear and trembling of the miraculous that God is RIGHT NOW doing in us, *“both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”* (Philippians 2:12-13). New life living requires the intentional act of submitting our wills to Gods. True Biblical willpower is to allow your will to become God's will and thus His power will be your power. Walking in the New Self requires denial of the Old. Denying the Old Self requires the power of God (GRACE). *One of the greatest and most necessary gifts God has given us is the ability to choose. Choosing the new over the old, the best over the good, peace over turmoil, is another way of putting on the New Self.*



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