

WHAT WAS PAUL LIKE?



1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

PHILLIPIANS 4:4-7

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:19-24, 28

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it....

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.





JOHN 11:21 - 26 AND 35

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Jesus wept

TAKE IT HOME PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, I want to be <u>present</u> with you in "the now" as this year unfolds.

I want to use the gift of <u>rejoicing</u> to push back against the fear that is all around me.

I want to use the gift of thanksgiving to push back against the anger and angst that would threaten to make me cynical and jaded.

I want to lean into your grace Lord Jesus, which is enables me to do all this.

AMEN