

James 2:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Analysis

And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Saying, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled" (thermainesthe, θερμαίνεσθε; chortazesthe, χορτάζεσθε) without supplying necessities is empty. Words devoid of deeds betray hypocrisy. Blessings without provision are worthless.

James critiques superficial piety that cloaks indifference. Reformed believers emphasize that Word and deed must cohere—compassionate speech must be accompanied by sacrificial action.

Historical Context

Traditional Jewish blessings often included such phrases; James warns against using them as substitutes for action. In diaspora communities, some may have offered kind words to avoid financial cost. John's exhortation in 1 John 3:17 echoes this warning.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Where might you offer words of comfort without practical aid?
2. How can you structure follow-up to ensure promises become deeds?
3. What resources can you mobilize to warm and fill needy saints?

Interlinear Text

εἶπη	δὲ	τις	αὐτοῖς	ἐξ	ὑμῶν	ὑπάγετε	ἐν	εἰρήνῃ
say	And	one	them	of	you	Depart	in	peace
G2036	G1161	G5100	G846	G1537	G5216	G5217	G1722	G1515
θερμαίνεσθε	καὶ	χορτάζεσθε	μὴ	δῶτε	δὲ	αὐτοῖς	τὰ	
be ye warmed	and	filled	not	ye give	And	them		G3588
G2328	G2532	G5526	G3361	G1325	G1161	G846		
ἐπιτήδεια		τοῦ	σώματος	τί	τὸ	ὄφελος		
those things which are needful		G3588	to the body	what	G3588	doth it profit		
G2006			G4983	G5101		G3786		

Additional Cross-References

Romans 12:9 (Parallel theme): Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Matthew 15:32 (Parallel theme): Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.

2 Corinthians 8:8 (Parallel theme): I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

