

# 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

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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

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εἴπῃ δὲ τις αὐτοῖς ἔξ οὐμῶν 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

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**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.

