

Word Study Using Bible Hub

Word studies can be a valuable addition to inductive Bible study. Translating from one language (Greek in the New Testament) to another (English) is seldom if ever a matter of a simple one-for-one replacement of an English term for its exact Greek equivalent.

Words in any language have shades of meanings, often depending on the context. (Think of the word “paper” – a writing material, an essay composed for a class, a source of news delivered to your home, a verb about applying a covering to a wall, an adjective describing thinness.)

Word studies are a way of determining the meanings of a word as it was used in various contexts in the New Testament. That range of meanings can help find how an author was using that word in a particular context under study.

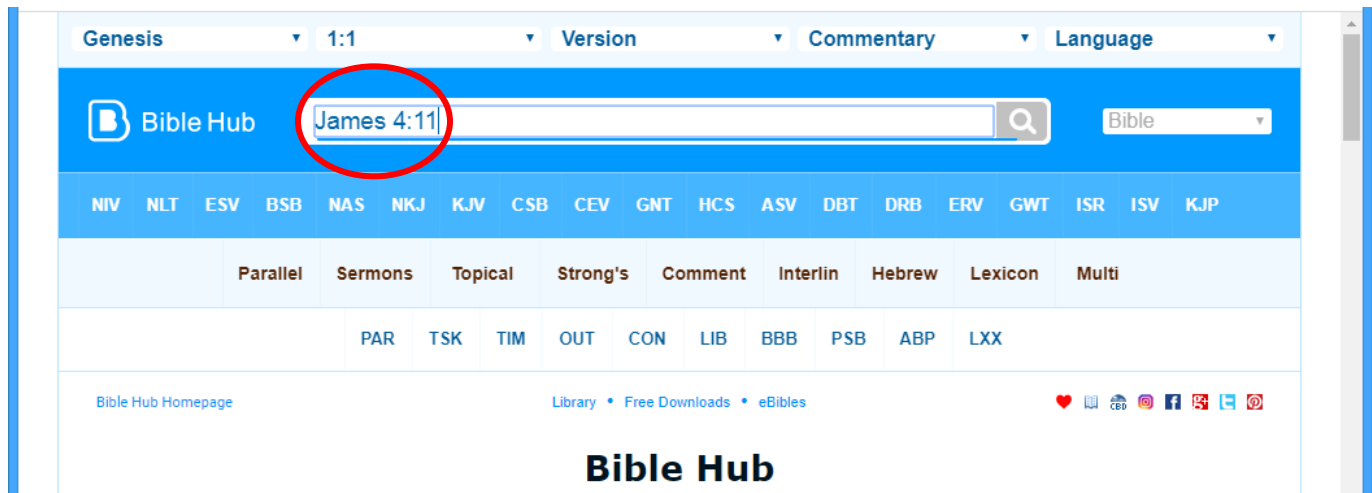
Detailed, rigorous word studies require a knowledge of the original language (Greek). However, there are tools available to at least begin how a word was used without an extensive knowledge of Greek. Please keep in mind that conclusions drawn from a limited study like that should always be checked against reputable commentaries or other trusted sources.

The [Bible Hub](https://biblehub.com/) web site is one resource that can get you started on a word study. For example, consider James 4:11:¹

“Do not speak against one another, brethren.” (NASB)

Is James prohibiting any criticism or correction of another believer? What might we learn from a word study focused on the phrase “speak against”?

Begin by going to the Bible Hub site at <https://biblehub.com/> and searching for James 4:11:



¹ For additional comments of this verse, see the discussion at <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/james-411-17-january-26-2020/>.

The verse will be displayed in several English translations:

The screenshot shows the Bible Hub website interface. At the top, there are navigation menus for 'James', '4:11', 'Version', 'Commentary', and 'Language'. Below this is the Bible Hub logo and a search bar. A horizontal menu lists various Bible versions: NIV, NLT, ESV, BSB, NAS, NKJ, KJV, CSB, CEV, GNT, HCS, ASV, DBT, DRB, ERV, GWT, ISR, ISV, KJP. Below the version menu, there are tabs for different study tools: Parallel, Sermons, Topical, Strong's, Comment, Interlin, Greek, Lexicon, and Multi. Under the 'Interlin' tab, there are sub-tabs: PAR, TSK, TIM, OUT, CON, LIB, BBB, PSB, ABP, and HEB. The main content area shows the verse 'James 4:11' with navigation arrows and a list of study tools: SUM, PIC, XRF, DEV, and STU. Below this, there are two columns: 'Verse (Click for Chapter)' and 'Study Bible'. The 'Verse' column contains the text of James 4:11 in the 'New International Version' and 'New Living Translation'. The 'Study Bible' column contains the text of James 4:11 in the 'Drawing Near to God' study Bible.

Click on the “Interlin” (Interlinear) link:

This screenshot is similar to the one above, but the 'Interlin' tab in the study tools menu is circled in red. A tooltip is visible over the 'Interlin' tab, displaying the text 'English - Greek / Hebrew Interlinear'. The rest of the page content, including the Bible Hub logo, search bar, version menu, and the main content area showing 'James 4:11', is identical to the previous screenshot.

Note the Greek word written in English letters, *katalaleite*, above the English interlinear translation of “speak against” and click on that link.

The screenshot shows the Bible Hub interface for James 4:11. At the top, there are dropdown menus for 'James', '4:11', 'Version', 'Commentary', and 'Language'. Below this is a search bar with the placeholder 'Enter Reference or Keyword' and a 'Multi' dropdown. A row of Bible versions is displayed: NIV, NLT, ESV, BSB, NAS, NKJ, KJV, CSB, CEV, GNT, HCS, ASV, DBT, DRB, ERV, GWT, ISR, ISV, KJP. Below that are tabs for 'Parallel', 'Sermons', 'Topical', 'Strong's', 'Comment', 'Interlin', 'Greek', 'Lexicon', and 'Multi'. Under 'Parallel' are sub-tabs: PAR, TSK, TIM, OUT, CON, LIB, BBB, PSB, ABP, HEB. The main content area shows 'Bible > Interlinear > James 4:11' and 'Library • Free Downloads • eBibles'. The title 'James 4:11' is centered. Below it is a link 'James 4 - Click for Chapter'. A table of interlinear text is shown with columns for Strong's numbers, Greek text, and English translations. The word 'katalaleite' is circled in red in the Greek column. Below it, the English translation is 'Not speak against'. Other translations include 'one another', 'brothers', 'The [one] speaking against', and '[his] brother'.

Bible Hub displays an overview of that word and related forms from the same root (*katalaleō*):

The screenshot shows the Bible Hub interface for the Greek word 'καταλαλεῖτε'. At the top, there are dropdown menus for 'James', '4:11', 'Version', 'Commentary', and 'Language'. Below this is a search bar with the placeholder 'Enter Reference or Keyword' and a 'Greek' dropdown. A row of Greek letters is displayed: Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω. Below that are tabs for 'Summary', 'Nasec', 'Thayer's', 'Strong's', and 'Englishman's'. Under 'Strong's' are sub-tabs: Greek, Hebrew, Interlinear. The main content area shows 'Bible > Strong's > Greek' and 'Library • Free Downloads • eBibles'. The title 'καταλαλεῖτε' is centered. Below it are two sections: 'Englishman's Concordance' and 'Concordance Entries'. The 'Englishman's Concordance' section shows 'καταλαλεῖτε (katalaleite) — 1 Occurrence' and 'James 4:11 V-PMA-2P'. The 'Concordance Entries' section shows 'Strong's Greek 2635' circled in red, followed by '5 Occurrences'. Below that are several occurrences of the word in Greek: 'καταλαλεῖ — 1 Occ.', 'καταλαλεῖσθε — 1 Occ.', 'καταλαλεῖτε — 1 Occ.', and 'καταλαλῶν — 1 Occ.'.

Click on the link for the number of times that word is used in the New Testament (“5 Occurrences” in this example):

The screenshot shows the Bible Hub interface for the word καταλαλέω (katalaleō). The main content area is titled "Englishman's Concordance" and lists five occurrences of the word in the New Testament. Each occurrence includes the Greek text, the NAS (New American Standard) translation, the KJV (King James Version) translation, and the INT (Interlinear Translation) translation. The occurrences are: James 4:11 V-PMA-2P, James 4:11 V-PPA-NMS, James 4:11 V-PIA-3S, 1 Peter 2:12 V-PIA-3P, and 1 Peter 3:16 V-PIM/P-2P. A sidebar on the right is titled "Concordance Entries" and lists various forms of the word used in the New Testament, such as καταλαλέει, καταλαλείσθε, καταλαλείτε, καταλαλών, καταλαλοῦσιν, κατακρίναν, κατακρίνεν, κατακρίθη, κατακρίσεως, κατάκρισιν, κατακυριεύοντες, κατακυριεύουσιν, κατακυριεύσας, καταλαλεί, καταλαλείσθε, καταλαλών, καταλαλοῦσιν, καταλαλαίαι, καταλαλιάς, καταλάλους, καταλάβη, καταλάβητε, καταλαβέσθαι, καταλάβω, and καταλαβόμενοι. The sidebar also includes a link to "Englishman's Concordance".

Now Bible Hub displays the other verses where forms of the Greek word (*katalaleō*) are used. Three of the occurrences are in James and two more in 1 Peter. All of the translations of all of the passages indicate a negative nuance, speaking evil or slandering another person. The verses in 1 Peter indicate the attacks and false accusations from opponents of the Christians.

Even such a brief word study as shown in this example can help understand that James wanted to prevent his readers from gossip or slander or false accusations against fellow believers. His words do not exclude the possibility of loving, accurate correction to help each other in the process of becoming more Christlike.