

A photograph of a sailboat's deck and rigging on a rough sea. The boat's hull is dark wood, and the deck is also dark wood. The rigging consists of numerous ropes and pulleys. The sea is dark blue with white-capped waves. The sky is overcast and grey. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**A SMOOTH  
SEA NEVER  
MADE A  
SKILLED  
SAILOR**

# Toward an Understanding of Pain and Suffering

## James 1:5-6

James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

# Toward an Understanding of Pain and Suffering

## James 1:5-6

Three purposes of trials:

1) Trials can purify our faith

- Do you believe that I am in control?
- Do you believe that I am good—no matter what you see or face?
- Will you wait on me by faith until the darkness becomes light?



A close-up, soft-focus photograph of a person's face, focusing on the eye and nose. The person's eye is closed, and a single tear is visible on the lower eyelid. The lighting is gentle, creating a somber and contemplative mood. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# **Toward an Understanding of Pain and Suffering**

**James 1:5-6**

2) Trials fortify our perseverance

3) Trials bring character maturity

# Toward an Understanding of Pain and Suffering

## James 1:5-6

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. <sup>6</sup> But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

# Toward an Understanding of Pain and Suffering

## James 1:5-6

Request – Pray for wisdom

Psalms 14:1 The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Don't ask *how* to get out of the trial. Ask *what* can I get out of this trial.



# Toward an Understanding of Pain and Suffering

## James 1:5-6

### Rest

Matthew 11:28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

A close-up, soft-focus photograph of a woman's face, showing her eye, nose, and part of her cheek. The lighting is warm and natural, highlighting the texture of her skin and the detail of her eye.

# Toward an Understanding of Pain and Suffering

## James 1:5-6

### Rejoice

James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,