MAINTAINING YOUR SANITY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

A Guide for Investors

BY SAVANT WEALTH MANAGEMENT

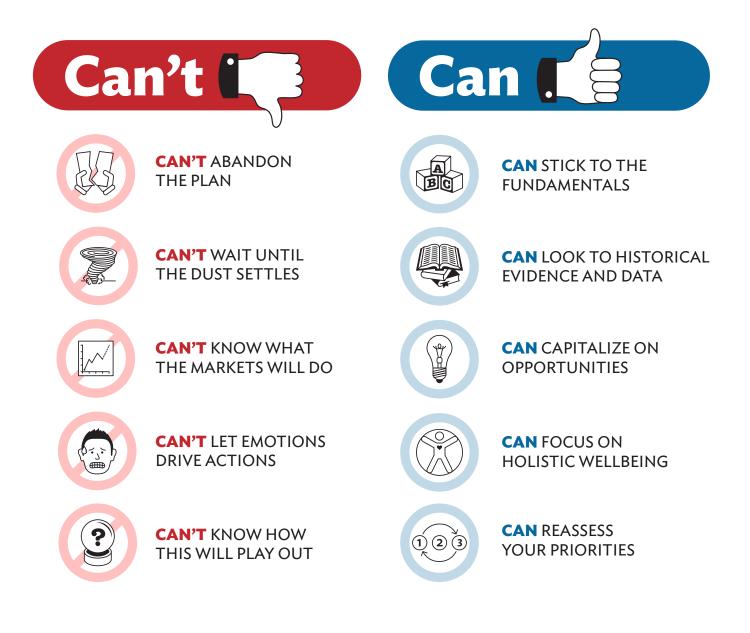


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BEST PRACTICES FOR VOLATILE MARKETS

Our lives are profoundly impacted by defining moments, and the coronavirus pandemic will go down in history as a period that greatly influenced several generations. Times of crisis require clear, succinct, non-negotiable actions to navigate volatile situations and markets. We created this guide to serve as a compass to point you in the right direction when things get tough and your emotions run strong.



BEST PRACTICE #1



CAN'T ABANDON THE PLAN

A well thought-out plan is designed to weather market swings and volatility. Uncertain times are considered and "baked in" to the projections within the plan. The investments in your portfolio were carefully designed to support your long-term goals, and changing course midstream can seriously jeopardize your chances of meeting those goals.





Having the discipline to stick to the fundamentals is what separates true investors from market-timing gamblers. Much like professional athletes, relying on your mastery of the fundamentals can greatly reduce your overall risk and increase your chances of achieving a favorable result.

BEST PRACTICE #2



CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THE DUST SETTLES

How will you know when the dust has settled and it's safe to re-enter the market? By the time you recognize the "right" time and buy back in, the opportunity will have passed you up long ago. Assuming you have enough liquidity, your best bet is to stay invested and remain in position to ride it out.





CAN LOOK TO HISTORICAL EVIDENCE AND DATA

By harnessing the wisdom of empirical evidence and data, you can let the power of financial markets work for you. A successful investment philosophy is powered by science, not speculation. If you rely on the data and tested academic research, you can sleep better at night during a market downturn.



The truth is that nobody knows what the markets will do this week or this year. No one, including the investment gurus, has a crystal ball. Market forecasts are strictly opinion and shouldn't drive decisions in tough times.



CAN CAPITALIZE ON OPPORTUNITIES

While we can't control the direction of markets, times like this do present good long-term opportunities. Reviewing financial plans and determining practical steps are powerful ways to bolster your strategy. Right now might be a good time to consider tax-loss harvesting, rebalancing, changing asset mixes, adding to your portfolio, and performing Roth IRA conversions, to name a few.

BEST PRACTICE #4



CAN'T LET EMOTIONS DRIVE ACTIONS

When investing, following your emotions can lead you down the wrong path. Your fear will drive you to sell as the markets fall, and euphoria will compel you to buy stocks at highs. Letting your emotions control your decisions is a recipe for disappointment.





CAN FOCUS ON HOLISTIC WELLBEING

A core overriding strategy in protecting your wellbeing is: don't sweat the things you can't control – like the markets and the coronavirus. Instead, focus your time and energy on the things that matter to you and that you can control – the things that contribute to your general sense of wellbeing and peace of mind. Developing an awareness of and protecting your wellbeing can not only make a big difference in your own life but will also improve the lives of your loved ones and the larger community. During times like this, it includes attending to your overall health, relationships with others, and financial security, engagement with your community, and being purposeful in your daily work.

BEST PRACTICE #5



Stocks have a risk premium for a reason. It compensates investors for the risk they endure while investing. The secret to success is not to avoid risk, but to take intelligent risks that have historically been compensated. Risk and "not knowing" is part of the process. Embrace it.



If you start feeling panicked about the market, revisiting your financial plan may be helpful. Review your plan and evaluate how much has changed. Is now a good time to review or update some of your goals? In a well thought-out plan, it is often the case that the current environment has less impact than you might think.



Should you have any additional questions or would like to talk further about how Savant can help, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Schedule an introductory call here. 866.489.0500 info@SavantWealth.com

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