

Investment Report

Like many adults, I receive a monthly statement of my investments, allowing me to track financial goals. Sometimes the statements are encouraging while other times just the opposite. Either way the results largely are beyond my control.

During times of declining stock values there are usually unsettling world or national events that affect consumer confidence in the market. Sometimes simple fear of an upcoming event causes stock prices to tumble. Other times we are told it is just a market adjustment. Yet, investment advisors usually tell us not to panic. History clearly shows the market generally improves over time, yielding a long-term positive gain.

How are you doing with the investment in your faith? God doesn't send you a written report but if you reflected for a quiet moment you could assess whether or not you are in a positive relationship with your Heavenly Father, today. Just like the stock market, confidence in your own faith can wobble based on what is happening in your life. Situations beyond your control often affect the strength of your faith at any given moment. When the uncertainty of employment or relationships affects us personally, we sometimes pull back from our faith, the one thing that could help us most in difficult times. We often let the enormity of our despair overcome us, letting outside influences control our personal relationship with our Heavenly Father.



During difficult times we should take the investment advisor's advice to stay the course. Have confidence that God will see you through the difficult times and bring you out on the other side in a stronger position. Make a conscious effort to strengthen your faith, especially during the difficult times. Your friends, your church, and your family are all positioned to support you as you deal with disappointment, but the most important spiritual advisor is God.

Investment counselors tell us to maintain our investments in the market even when it is down. In fact, when the market is down, the time is right for a greater investment. We should do the same with our faith. There is no better time to tap into God's strength than when we need it the most.

It takes commitment to stay the course with our faith when times are tough. Just like looking at one investment report, we put too much stock in a snapshot of a single moment in time. History tells us there is a positive gain ahead. God has assured us: *Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:20)*. Stay strong in the faith throughout the good times and the bad, and God will reward you. God is with you every day, assuring you of success for the long haul.

Someday you will be able to retire in heaven.

Scripture: *"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken, nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you (Isaiah 54:10).*

Question: When times get tough, do you stay true to your faith?

Prayer: Dear Lord, every day presents new challenges, with victories and disappointments. We know we can rely on You to carry us through the disappointments. We will stay the course of our faith. Amen.