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skv three things

1

Happy St. Patrick's Day. With the stock market losing chunks of "green" seemingly every other day, it is completely understandable— very human, to contemplate getting out "until things calm down." I believe waiting until there is "more certainty", a euphemism for market timing, could be more hazardous to your financial health than a virus. Keep in mind, the successful market timer--*an oxymoron*-- must be right twice! When to get out, and the more challenging-- when to get back in decision? What good have you done to get out, only to get back in at a higher level later, "when it feels better." Bank of America did a study going back to 1930, and found if an investor missed the S&P 500's 10 best days per decade, their total returns would drop from **14,962**% for the entire period to only **91%** for those that sat out the best day each year. (insert your own MSNBC/Brian Williams math joke here) Time and time again, as we have seen in the last few weeks —the best days of the year, generally follow the worst days of the year. Miss a big day a year, a miniscule 10 days over a decade…and you are better off investing in Alpacas or a time share. There really is no way to capture the permanent long-term returns of stocks, without "leaning in" to the occasional temporary declines. Can't have one, without the other.

2

Financial journalist John Authers nailed it when he wrote in the Financial Times on March 2009, *"Perhaps the greatest reason for hope at present is that almost all hope seems to have been lost."* The S&P opened at 677 on March 10^{th}, having declined almost 60% in the prior year and a half. This was the first day of the longest bull market run in history. The stock market recovery began before "The Great Recession" was deemed officially over by the National Bureau of Economic Research in September 2009, at which point the index was already over 1000. This might be the best example in my nearly 30-year career of the perils of sitting on the sidelines. For those that got out, waiting for the "all clear", they likely missed a swift 50%+ recovery in those early days. And I can attest, we were all slow to emerge from our bomb shelters then, tentative, wondering if the shelling had ceased, and if the early price recovery would hold. Those that remained in their bunkers missed out on an annual average return of nearly 17%.

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I think there have been 6 strains of coronavirus since the 1960's. So far, mankind is undefeated versus them all. *"It is worth remembering the world has never had better tools to fight {Covid-19}…we know what it is…we can test for it…catching it is not that easy.. in most cases, symptoms are mild, and young people are at very low risk…people are recovering from it….hundreds of scientific articles have been written about it…vaccine prototypes exist…dozens of treatments are already being tested…"*, Jon Henley, Coronovirus: Nine Reasons To Be Reassured. Bottom-line: Stay on plan. Fist bump. Ignore the pessimistic pundits on TV and the geniuses at cocktail parties. (And if you are of IRA RMD age, skip the cocktail parties for a little while until the real geniuses vanquish #7.)

Happy anniversary to us. SKV celebrates 4 years today! Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. As always, I'm honored and humbled you have given me the opportunity to serve as your financial advisor. **Thank you.** We hope you view us as your ***friendly, knowledgeable, and reassuring source of financial guidance.*** -MHK

FAITH DISCIPLINE PATIENCE

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