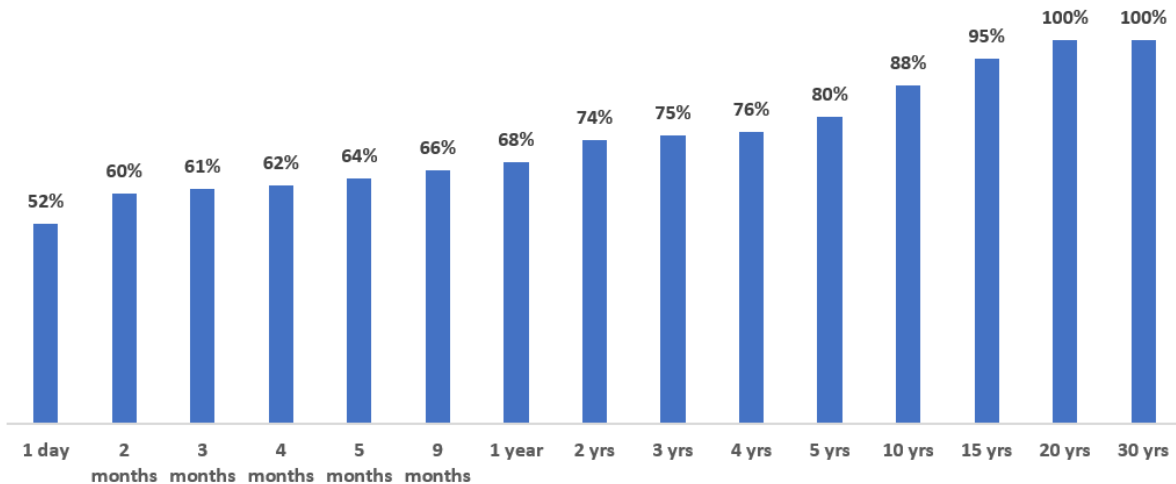




I wrote this to you a year ago (check your email archive): "My favorite bit of **good** news, for the first time in decades, "Wall Street" sees stocks down next year! Yes! We are now in the midst of market prediction season for next year. Many supposed market gurus will share their two cents on what the markets will do in the new year. All will be guessing. Your guess is as good as theirs. The list of poor predictions is endless. There is no "Hall of Fame" or Mt Rushmore for market prognosticators. We all crave certainty. We are hard-wired to gravitate toward predictions hoping to reduce some angst and mollify these cravings. Many of these predictions lean negative. Lean hard. Resist!! The pessimistic pundits are rarely right, but never in doubt. Turns out my prediction that the predictors might not be right about 2023 was correct! Bloomberg tallied all the expert forecasts and consensus was "down 2%" on average, when the S&P 500 finished up over 20%. Oops. "The only value of stock forecasters is to make fortunetellers look good," Warren Buffett.

U.S. Stocks: Percent of Periods That Earned a Positive Return
1871-2018. Adjusted for dividends and inflation.



Graphic: Michael Kaminski, CFP® / SKV Group

Source Data: Online Data Robert Schiller, <http://www.econ.yale.edu/~shiller/data.htm>

(Source: Morningstar)



My crystal ball says (imagine a drum roll here) there is an over 70% chance the market will go up in 2024. "CHING"! Write that down 😊 That is not a wild-eyed overly optimistic

prediction, but what the historical data reveals. From the Civil War, through the Great Depression, two World Wars, the Disco Years, the Pontiac Aztex®....the U.S. markets odds of rising have remained solidly over 70% in any given year. Worried about loss with a 10, 15, or 20 year time horizon? “Fogetaboutit!”



Well, I made a resolution in 2023 to lose 10 pounds. Only 14 to go! Old joke, but sadly still works. If I keep 70% of my New Year’s resolutions in 2024, I will be healthier, wealthier, wiser....and 100% shocked! According to a study published in the British Journal of Medicine, “people who sat 8-10 hours daily, but managed to clock about 11 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous exercise a day, were less likely to die than those who only got about two minutes of exercise a day.” We can do 11 minutes a day, right!? Raking the yard is considered a moderate exercise. “Any movement is an improvement on none, more is usually better, and it is never too late to start.” Did you know, you are over 40% more likely to achieve your goals if you write them down, according to Dr. Gail Mathews, Dominican University. But remember—

A GOAL IS NOT A PLAN.



I thought you would find it fun to know- that together with about 90 Veteran guests SKV, hosted an Army vs Navy viewing party on December 9th. So many of the Veterans were excited to get out of the house and spend time with others in their “tribe”. Many of you reading this support SKV’s project “Gratitude” and for that we are grateful. Happy New Year!

As always, I’m honored and humbled you have given me the opportunity to serve as your financial advisor. I am lucky to be in the foxhole with the greatest, smartest, best-looking clients in all the land. We hope you view us as your ***friendly, knowledgeable, and reassuring source of financial guidance.***

FAITH

DISCIPLINE

PATIENCE

The opinions expressed in this report are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily those of Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network or its affiliates. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for information purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrument or to participate in any trading strategy. S&P 500 Index: The S&P 500 Index consists of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity, and industry group representation. It is a market value weighted index with each stock's weight in the Index proportionate to its market value. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network is not a legal or tax advisor. Be sure to consult your own tax advisor and investment professional before taking any action that may involve tax consequences. Index returns are not fund returns. An index is unmanaged and not available for direct investment. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Asset allocation and diversification are investment methods used to help manage risk. They do not guarantee investment returns or eliminate risk of loss including in a declining market.

Michael H. Kaminski, CFP®

President

SKV Group, LLC

1405 Rolkin Court, Suite 202
Charlottesville, Va 22911

FAITH. DISCIPLINE. PATIENCE

Ph 434.328.8040

www.skvgrp.net

