

Your 401K Might Be Costing You A Lot

In past podcasts you've seen I'm a big fan of simple, straightforward ways to add substantial wealth to your portfolio.

Well today I'm giving you another very accessible but often missed method for building your wealth. It's a little known loophole for 401ks, called in-service distributions, that was created as a result of the 2008 financial crisis.

If you have a 401k of any size you'll find this information on in-service distributions extremely useful as you put together your financial plan. If the right choice isn't made on a 401k at the right time, it could cost you a lot.

Listen below and let's save you some money.

What I relearned when a thirty-two trade win streak came to an end.

What did I learn from the first losing options trade after a nine month streak of thirty-two profitable trades? This is one of the single most important lessons any investor can learn. And I'm reminded of it every time I defy this principle.

Listen to this week's podcast and hear the story about what I relearned from the experience when my thirty-two trade streak came to a halt.

How Do You Compare To The Average American? Surprised At This.

CNBC recently ran a survey they call the "All America Survey" in which they go out and survey Americans across all income levels and backgrounds. They try to get a pulse on what the average American thinks about the markets, investing and other financial topics.

I found it quite insightful to see what the “average American” is thinking right now. How good an investment environment are we in? What are the best investments available today? How stocks compare to bonds or real estate to gold.

You have to compare yourself to this crowd for one great reason: it will tell you a lot about your investment savvy. **And let me tell you, the “average American”, at least according to this survey, is not terribly savvy.**

Today’s podcast dives right in and talks about these results and how you might compare. I hope you enjoy.

[How much Bitcoin should I have in my portfolio: IGGA Podcast](#)

Based on numerous client and associate discussions I have been having I know what is on many people’s minds: Bitcoin. Today we are going to take a look at Bitcoin and how the smart investor should be viewing this relatively new phenomenon of cryptocurrencies.

I hope you enjoy our take on Bitcoin and what it can mean for the informed investor.

What We’re Reading

[An Experts Guide to Calling a Market Top](#): This is by Barry Ritholtz and is a fantastic article. We found ourselves not only nodding our heads as we read it but laughing as well. This is a great piece that is a must read for anyone.

[The \\$12-million iPhone](#): In light of the new iPhone X launch, this article seems very appropriate. This is by Bret Swanson. After reading this article you will see just how blessed we all are to live in the times that we live in.

[19 Questions to Ask your Financial Advisor](#): If you’re looking to hire a Financial Advisor and need a list of questions to ask, this is as good as we’ve seen. Jason Zweig, who’s been writing on these topics for decades, knows exactly what you need to ask an Advisor before working with them. Our take, call us and ask us these questions, we have answers for them all! (you will need a Wall Street Journal log-in to read this article)

[Conventional Wisdom About Retirement Age Allocations Is Likely Costing You](#)

I absolutely LOVE this week's podcast topic. Why? Because it is one of those areas where I am highly confident that with just a few simple adjustments and without much heartache I can help many, perhaps even most, people save a lot of money. And that is my job.

Today, we're talking about age based allocation formulas that are preached by the financial masses. When you're 60, it's 60 percent bonds/cash and 40 percent equities, right? Today you're going to hear me talk about just how wrong this can be. And it can be BIG wrong depending on the situation.

Click below to listen and enjoy.

[Portfolio's That Maximize The Probability of High Performance](#)

This week we're preparing for our upcoming September Options Webcast. Here at Iron Gate we consistently preach the value of a thoughtfully devised and executed options strategy to accompany your core portfolio efforts.

Options can be the key to the difference between mediocrity and over-performance for many portfolios primarily because of their ability to generate income when income is often scarce, and secondarily because they can provide a valuable hedge to your core portfolio holdings when managed properly.

If you aren't using options, you should be. If you are, this upcoming webcast will provide an excellent opportunity to refine your options process and improve your approach to options. Plus the question and answer portion of the webcast will be valuable for anyone wanting to dive deeper.

Register For the September 21st Iron Gate Options Webcast

And here is a valuable refresher, or tip of the iceberg if you will, on what options can be doing for your portfolio:

[Do You Have Home Country Bias and Other Behaviorally Driven Investor Topics](#)

In this week's podcast I'm basing my thoughts on the string of client questions I have been receiving over the last couple of weeks. You may have heard me say before, as a financial advisor I consider myself a behavioral advisor as much as a markets advisor.

Investors are antsy and they're asking questions like:

"The **market is at an all-time high** is it the time to sell?"

"This **political environment** is making me antsy, how do I trade it?"

I address these topics head on. What does history and what does probability tell us about them? The answers formulate our response.

Finally, I also address a critical behavioral weakness of many investors: **home country bias**. You like many others may have this. It can hamper your portfolio's performance.

So click below to listen as we discuss these very important topics and see how you would grade yourself against our recommended approach.

[This Client Asked Two Common Questions: Here's Our Answer](#)

A client recently asked me two questions:

- 1) What is the market going to do over the course of the next year?
- 2) What is the secret sauce that has led to our success in the markets?

What I did was walk him through why those aren't the right questions to ask an adviser. I walked him through what I believe any client or potential client should ask their investment adviser.

The reasoning for my answer is deeply connected with why I believe a large number of investors, either on their own or with an adviser, don't achieve the success they should be able to.

Today's podcast is a simple review of that conversation. I hope you enjoy.

What We're Reading

[The first rule of Investing is . . .](#) This is a fantastic, quick read that we agree with wholeheartedly. The key to any "rules" is to implement them. It's one thing to know the rules, it's another to implement them.

[What Matters and What Doesn't in Investing \(and in Life\)](#) This echoes a lot of what we discussed in our podcast. There are some things you shouldn't waste your energy worrying about (even though the media sure does!).

[Two Simple Ways to Tounce the Market](#) – While trouncing the market is never "simple," this article does point out some two important principles that we agree with. In fact, for a lot of our clients, this is how we manage their money.

[How To Think About This Market And The Non-existent Volatility We Are Experiencing: Podcast](#)

For almost the entire year this has been a smooth sailing market. What does

this mean for investors?

This week in our podcast we take a dive into the data around this Bull market, how it compares to other low-volatility markets of the past, and what you should be thinking about when it comes to your portfolio.

Click below to listen and enjoy.

What We're Reading

[Malcom Gladwell: There are no shortcuts to success – here's what will up your chances.](#) We agree 100% with this! It's what we do every day for our clients to help them build and manage their wealth. It's what we're trying to teach our children daily, and it's the one thing that you can't succeed in life without.

[Investors, Stop Worrying About Why 'Nobody' Is Worrying.](#) Jason Zweig's article falls right in line with our podcast for the week. We have no idea why volatility is non-existent. All we know is that it will eventually come, so prepare yourselves. It may be in the next week, month or year, but it will come, the preparation comes now.

[There They Go Again . . . Again.](#) When Howard Marks writes a memo, everyone should read it. We put Mr. Marks memos on the same page as Warren Buffett's annual report. In this memo, he discusses risk, preparation for eventual volatility, and hits head on the ridiculous investment of crypto-currencies.

[Volatility Is The Price You Pay For The Returns On An Investment: The IGGA Podcast](#)

If you are one of the many investors, who, like one of my client's, has a misplaced notion of risk, you'll get a lot out of today's podcast. Also, you will probably want to talk with us about assessing how risk and returns play into your portfolio decisions.

I can't tell you the number of truly bright, hard working individuals that have deeply limited their portfolio's value because they misunderstood risk.

I hope you enjoy the podcast, and encourage you to give me a call to discuss how you should be looking at risk and investments for your time frame.

Listen below.