



Faithful Investing: Biblical Stewardship, Risk, and Growth

Principles of ethical financial management and responsible growth



Why Investing Matters for Faithful Stewards

Stewardship and Spiritual Responsibility

Investing reflects trust in God's provision and stewardship of resources for ministry and life.

Practical Impact of Investing

Investing prevents resource loss to inflation and supports growth for future ministry and family needs.

Theological Foundation of Investing

Investing mirrors God's pattern of growth and faithfulness, aligning finances with Kingdom priorities.



What Investing Really Means

Investing vs Saving

Investing focuses on growth over time, while saving prioritizes preservation and immediate access for short-term needs.

Beyond Financial Investment

Investing includes time, skills, and relationships, aiming for future benefits beyond just money.

Real Value vs Speculation

True investing supports real economic growth, unlike speculative actions driven by price changes alone.

Principles for Faith-Based Investors

Investment decisions should align with purpose, timeline, and values to avoid emotional or unrealistic choices.



Biblical Roots of Stewardship and Growth

Creation as Stewardship

Genesis shows God bringing order and life to chaos, establishing stewardship as active cultivation and protection.

Active Stewardship Principle

Stewardship requires active management and growth, not passive preservation, honoring God's intent for fruitfulness.

Faithful Financial Investing

Investing with wisdom and purpose supports ministry and generosity, reflecting biblical stewardship values.

Understanding Risk, Return, and Discipline



Investing Compared to Gambling

Essence of Investing

Investing involves productive ownership or lending that generates value and positive returns over time.

Multiple winners

Nature of Gambling

Gambling is a zero-sum activity driven by chance with negative expected returns and no lasting value creation.

Only Winners and Losers

Managing Investment Risks

Education, diversification, and discipline help manage investment risks and avoid speculative behaviors.

The Five Questions Every Investor Must Answer

Investment Timeline

Determine when the money will be needed as time horizon influences acceptable risk levels.

Investment Objectives

Clarify what the investment is meant to achieve, such as preservation, income, or growth.

Financial Risk

Tolerance

Assess how much loss the plan can absorb without jeopardizing its purpose.

Emotional Volatility

Evaluate if decision-makers can stay disciplined during market swings and avoid impulsive choices.

Liquidity Needs

Identify if funds might be needed soon or unpredictably to avoid illiquid investments.



Risk, Reward, and Time Horizon Tradeoffs

Risk and Reward Tradeoff

Higher returns require accepting greater risk or longer time horizons; no risk-free high-return investment exists.

Importance of Time Horizon

Longer time horizons reduce impact of market volatility and enable powerful compounding of returns.

Aligning Strategy with Purpose

Investment choices should match time horizon and goals to manage risk effectively and sustainably.

Practical Investment Structures



Common Investment Types Explained

Stocks Overview

Stocks represent business ownership offering appreciation and dividends but involve short-term volatility risks.

Bonds as Stable Investments

Bonds are debt instruments providing interest income and more stability, though with generally lower returns than stocks.

Cash and Liquidity

Cash equivalents offer safety and liquidity for immediate needs but usually have low returns that may not beat inflation.

Diversified Funds Benefits

Diversified funds reduce risk by combining various investments, simplifying portfolio management and promoting steady growth.

The Role of Diversification



Risk Reduction Through Diversification

Diversification spreads investments across assets, sectors, and regions to reduce exposure to single risks.

Humility in Investing

Diversification acknowledges unpredictability in investment performance and avoids reliance on guessing.

Stewardship and Patience

Diversification supports disciplined stewardship by encouraging patience and reducing emotional decisions.



Redemptive Investing and Values Alignment

Ethical Stewardship of Capital

Redemptive investing balances financial returns with the moral impact of investments on communities and culture.

Screening for Values Alignment

Negative screening avoids harmful investments; positive screening supports activities promoting human flourishing.

Integrating Faith and Finance

Redemptive investing aligns financial strategies with theological commitments, promoting integrity and purpose.

Sustainable and Impactful Investing

This approach supports long-term impact and generosity without sacrificing financial discipline and sustainability.

Timing, Behavior, and Discipline

When to Begin Investing



Value of Starting Early

Starting to invest early allows time for compounding, significantly increasing long-term returns even with modest gains.



Risks of Waiting

Delaying investment for perfect market conditions often leads to missed opportunities and diminished purchasing power over time.



Disciplined Investing

Starting thoughtfully with clear goals helps manage risks and builds disciplined investing habits over time.



Dollar-Cost Averaging and Entry Discipline

Managing Emotional Risk

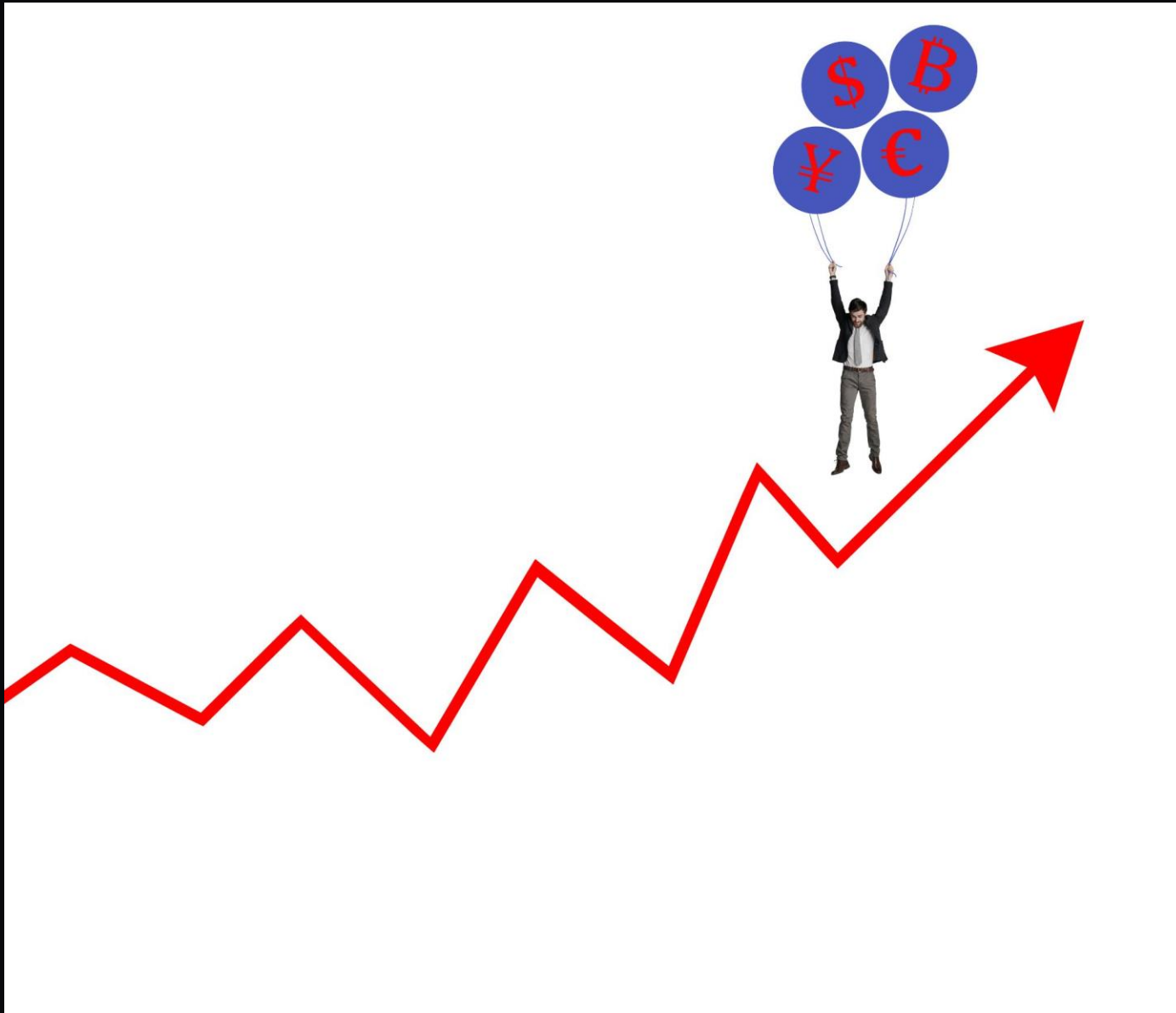
Dollar-cost averaging reduces emotional and timing risks by investing fixed amounts regularly, easing market entry pressure.

Psychological Benefits

This method offers psychological comfort and discipline, helping investors avoid delaying decisions due to fear or volatility.

Discipline Over Precision

Consistent execution of an investment plan is more effective than perfect timing, supporting long-term financial goals.



Avoiding Common Behavioral Mistakes

Behavioral Investment Mistakes

Common errors include holding too much cash, chasing trends, and investing without clear goals driven by emotion.

Discipline as a Solution

Establishing a clear investment plan and periodic rebalancing reduces emotional influences like fear and excitement.

Faithful Investing Principles

Faithful investing values ownership over speculation and patience over prediction to sustain long-term success.

Application and Next Steps



Investing as Faithful Stewardship

Investing as Stewardship

Investing reflects stewardship focused on purpose, risk understanding, timeline alignment, and value consistency.

Supporting Stability and Generosity

Faithful investing fosters stability, generosity, and long-term impact for ministries and families alike.

Integrating Faith with Financial Wisdom

Combining biblical principles and sound financial practices encourages confident and humble investing decisions.



How Missouri Baptist Foundation Supports Stewards

Comprehensive Stewardship Support

The Foundation guides churches and individuals in managing resources for Kingdom impact through investment and endowment strategies.

Services for Churches

Support includes capital campaign consultation, church loan solutions, and finance committee education for effective resource management.

Individual and Family Support

Assistance with estate planning, donor-advised funds, and personalized stewardship consultations to align giving with faith values.

Partnership and Faithfulness

The Foundation emphasizes partnership over sales, fostering long-term faithfulness and clarity in financial decisions aligned with mission.

Final Encouragement and Invitation



Wise and Intentional Investing

Invest intentionally and wisely to create greater provision and long-term impact in ministry and life.



Confidence amid Uncertainty

Clear goals and discipline help stewards move forward confidently despite investment uncertainties.



Ongoing Learning and Partnership

Continuous dialogue and teachable spirit mark stewardship as an ongoing journey of trust and discernment.