

January 2021

Today, let's pause, and take a moment to reflect on the wondrous powers of small, quiet acts.

Pandemic aside, there have been plenty of recent big, loud acts. Year-end reviews and year-ahead predictions, clamoring for your current attention. Describing 2020 as an "everything rally," one Wall Street Journal columnist wrote, "Investors ended one of Wall Street's wildest years on record by piling into everything from bitcoin to emerging markets, raising expectations that a powerful economic comeback will fuel even more gains."

The excitement is not entirely unfounded. Last March, when the S&P 500 dove into a bear market almost overnight, it was hard to expect anything but a long, grim year ahead. Of course, in hindsight, we now know markets rebounded nearly as quickly as they plummeted. They ultimately delivered positive annual returns across most domestic and international asset classes. The fourth quarter was no exception to this tale of remarkable resilience with some asset classes soaring.

Why would markets soar in the midst of rising COVID-19 case counts and still-sour economies? We could describe any number of rational reasons, most notably that the markets move based on future expectations. And currently it's expected that the trillions of dollars the U.S. Government has plowed into the economy, and American's pent-up demand for a return to normal (spend more) living, will drive the economy, and stock markets, upwards.

Whether the temptation is to abandon a free-falling market (like the one we encountered less than a year ago), or, now, chase after winning streaks, a long-term investor's best move remains the same. Trust in the durability of your carefully planned investment portfolio. Focus on small, quiet acts. Riding out the Pandemic related downturn was a quiet act as is now not getting caught up in the excitement of a fast-rising stock market.

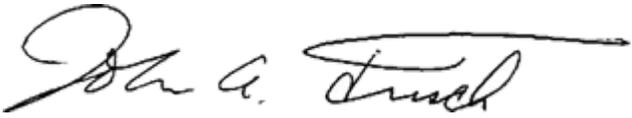
That's what we're here for, for example, to:

- Remind you that your globally diversified portfolio was constructed with the expectation of occasional, extreme market volatility. Therefore no different act is necessary when extreme volatility occurs.
- Rebalancing your portfolio if recent gains offer opportunities to sell high priced asset classes and buy cheaper ones.
- Help you interpret the 5,600 pages of the newly passed Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, so you can manage your next financial moves accordingly.

- Assess potential ramifications of the Biden tax proposals, and advise you on any additional defensive tax planning that may be warranted for you in the years ahead.
- Remain by your side as you encounter whatever other challenges and opportunities 2021 has in store for you and your family.

These aren't loud acts you'll read about in the paper, But they're the stuff financial dreams are made of. How else can we help you achieve your personal financial goals, come what may in the headline news? Tell us more. We're here to hear you. In the meantime, we wish you and yours a healthy and prosperous 2021.

Regards,



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