

FWP Insider

Ten Words for Freedom by Rhonda Weaver

Christmas 2018 has passed but is not forgotten. Our incoming Visa and Mastercard statements serve as a reminder of Christmas Past, so I feel moved to share this devotional from Charles Stanley's book, Daily Encouragement from the Proverbs with you today. I pray this message will be inspirational and comforting to you, knowing the truth of God's love for you and His desire to strengthen and guide you to move toward the direction of becoming debt free.

Scripture Reading: *Proverbs 24; Psalm 32:8; Proverbs 3:9-10*: Financial freedom is what every child of God should desire for themselves, and it is certainly what God desires for us as well. Here are ten words that will point you in the right direction.



Conviction: You must be convicted that you are in debt and that it may not be honoring to God. **Confession**: Beyond conviction, you must confess: Lord, I have let my desires control my expenditures and I have not been a good steward.” **Commitment**: commitment is a decision to do something backed up with the courage to make it happen. **Confidence**: You can be confident that God will guide you and enable you to get out of debt (*Psalm 32:8*). **Cooperation**: Every member of the family must cooperate. **Construct**: Construct a realistic budget that involves repayment of debt. It won't happen without a plan. **Change**: You must change your spending habits. **Counsel**: Find someone who will hold you accountable. **Contributions**: Honor God with the first fruits of what you have (*Proverbs 3:9-10*). **Consistency**: Stick with it, whatever it takes.

You can do one of two things with these words. You can ignore them and keep getting deeper in debt, or you can be wise enough to apply them in your life. God wants you to experience financial freedom. Trust Him to lead and enable you, and He will take you there.

For those of you who meet regularly with Tom, Nathan, or Samuel, some of these words are very familiar to you. For those who are not yet meeting on a regular basis, helping clients move toward financial freedom is our passion at Family Wealth Partners. Ask us how we can help you get started.

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Blueberry Crumb Cake

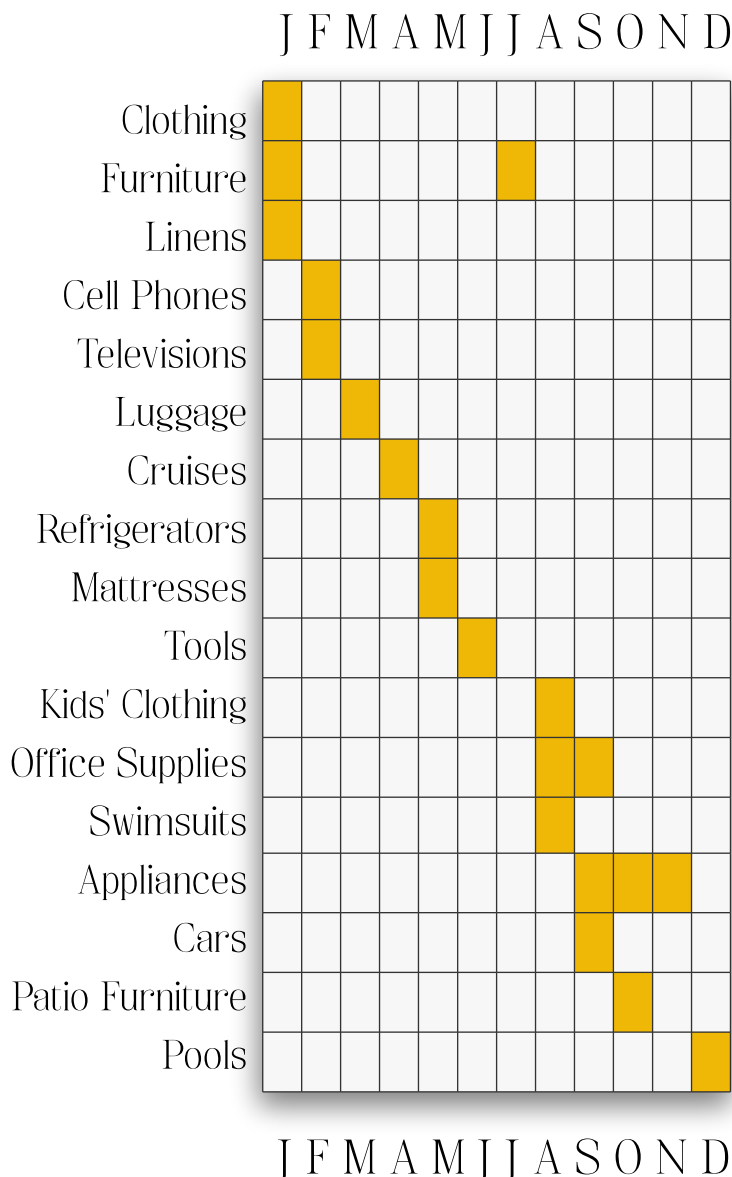
by Jennifer Addesso



Your Month-to-Month Guide to Saving Money

by Jennifer Addesso

Who doesn't enjoy a good sale, but planning to buy something on sale can be tricky if you don't know when an item is going on sale. Retailers typically run sales at certain times of the year. Below is a guide to when you will find the best deals on a particular category of items.



Ingredients

For the streusel:

- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup light brown sugar, lightly packed
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 pound (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted
- 1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour

For the cake:

- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter at room temperature
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 extra-large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- 2/3 cup sour cream
- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- Confectioners' sugar for sprinkling

Directions: Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Butter and flour a 9-inch round baking pan.

For the streusel: Combine the granulated sugar, brown sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg in a bowl. Stir in the melted butter and then the flour. Mix well and set aside.

For the cake: Cream the butter and sugar in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment on high speed for 4 to 5 minutes, until light. Reduce the speed to low and add the eggs 1 at a time, then add the vanilla, lemon zest, and sour cream. In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. With the mixer on low speed, add the flour mixture to the batter until just combined. Fold in the blueberries and stir with a spatula to be sure the batter is completely mixed. Spoon the batter into the prepared pan and spread it out with a knife. With your fingers, crumble the topping evenly over the batter. Bake for 40 to 50 minutes, until a cake tester comes out clean. Cool completely and serve sprinkled with confectioners' sugar.

Source:

<https://lifehacker.com/5973864/the-best-time-to-buy-anything-during-the-year>

How Smart Investing Behavior Will Help You Worry Less

by Samuel Dye



Eric Barker has the rare combination of a keen, analytical mind (he has an MBA from Boston College) and the wit of a storyteller (he's also a former Hollywood screenwriter who's worked with Walt Disney Pictures and Twentieth Century Fox). Now a successful blogger and author with several best-sellers to his credit, Barker writes about what separates extremely successful people from "the rest of us," and what we can learn from how they do things. Using research, statistics, and surprising anecdotes, his goal is to help people to stop guessing and figure out the plan that will help them live the life they want.

Behavior Beats Investing Acumen

In a recent post on how to be smarter with money, Barker points out that if you want to make money over the long haul, the evidence shows that you should concern yourself less with picking the best performing investments and concentrate more on being the best behaving investor.¹ He says, "When studies compare how well investments perform to how well investors perform, there's always a gap. Investors almost invariably do worse than the investments do." For example, he observes that many people "buy high" by acting on hot stock tips, "sell low" by cashing out during downturns, and counteract their investing gains with high consumer debt. Barker says that it's important to recognize that there are a lot of strong feelings that surround the topic of money, and that this is exactly why you need to follow a detailed plan.

A Plan To Counteract Emotions

First, you need a plan so you can be sure you know what you want to accomplish with your money. Because of your unique situation and goals, you need to come up with a roadmap that's been tailored exactly for you. A general, cookie-cutter plan probably won't be as effective as one that's specific and customized to your unique situation. Second, a plan will help you resist the urge to simply follow your feelings based on short-term events. This includes selling at low points, but also includes speculating with the hope of immediate big gains. Barker says that people trade stocks unnecessarily because it's fun, a terrible reason for possibly derailing your retirement plans. "Investing is not entertainment," he says. "Base your decisions on goals and principles, not on your feelings about what's going to happen." He adds that people who try to "play" the stock market are the ones who end up getting played. Finally, Barker advises people to be "ignorant and lazy" with their investing. Like a good storyteller, he's using a little hyperbole to make his point. He means that A) a good investor has no obligation to keep up on the daily financial news, especially if it's encouraging him to abandon his plan. And B) there's no virtue in "working the market" by speculating on stocks versus taking a hands-off approach that acknowledges that you can't predict the future. The reason that Barker chose to write on this topic is that most people don't do these things on their own. And this is why, as your most trusted advisor, Family Wealth Partners can help you in two major ways: coming up with the plan that fits you best, and helping you stick with it when your short-term feelings can lead you astray.

1. <http://go.efficientadvisors.com/e/91522/2018-07-smarter-with-money-/5q3tln/568220597>

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Stewardship Strides by Tom Dundorf

Previously in Stewardship Strides, I introduced the three categories of clients that work well with FWP: Emerging Affluent (focus of last Stewardship Strides article), Mass Affluent and High Net Worth. I would like to discuss Mass Affluent (MAs) and why we work so well with them. MAs know money is simply a tool that will allow them the freedom to pursue what they are passionate about (what they are made to do) rather than working only for money (what they are paid to do).

Generally, MAs got to where they are because they worked diligently over a prolonged period of time, earned well, lived below their means, saved aggressively, gave generously, and maintained a long-term focus. Many of the MAs we work with know they will eventually be able to engage in daily activities that may be more fun and meaningful yet they know they first have to keep their “nose to the grindstone” until they reach the point that they are working out of choice rather than out of necessity.

What MAs need most is a financial plan to help them quantify whether the financial resources they have accumulated are sufficient such that they are working out of choice rather than out of necessity. Many financial advisors in the industry are financial sales people and they are not skilled to create a comprehensive financial plan.

We have seen MAs live with extraordinary joy and peace once they know they are working because they “Get To” not because they “Have To”. Some choose to stop working for compensation and they use their enhanced margin of time to volunteer and do things with friends and family that was not possible when they had to keep their “nose to the grindstone”. Others will continue to have some gainful employment with compensation because they appreciate the options a few extra dollars in their pockets affords them. A sad reality though, is many do not know where they stand on their journey to financial freedom. In our next issue of Stewardship Strides, I will review the difference between MAs and High Net Worth clients.

If you are, or know someone who is, an MA and could benefit from having a “Most Trusted Advisor” to support your/their journey, we would be humbled and honored to meet with you/them. We are confident that any introductory meeting we conduct will have 1 of 3 outcomes to enhance your/their journey: 1. Valuable counsel, 2. Referral to another advisor outside of FWP or 3. Discovery there is a basis for a long-term mutually beneficial relationship. Clearly, you can see why we love introductions to people; all three potential outcomes leave the individuals grateful that our clients introduced their friends/family to FWP.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

February 2 Groundhog Day	February 3 Super Bowl Sunday	February 14 Valentine's Day	February 18 President's Day (FWP Office closed)	March 6 Ash Wednesday	March 10 Daylight Savings Starts
March 17 St. Patrick's Day	March 20 1 st Day of Spring	April 14 Palm Sunday	April 15 Tax Day	April 19 Good Friday (FWP Office closed)	April 21 Easter Sunday



Family Wealth Partners

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