# THE FINANCIAL **SYMMETRY INVESTMENT SOLUTION**

ENHANCE TODAY | ENRICH TOMORROW



# **RULES-BASED PROCESS**

# **MANAGING AN INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO IS A PROCESS, NOT A ONE-TIME DECISION.**

AT FINANCIAL SYMMETRY, WE BELIEVE AN EFFECTIVE INVESTMENT STRATEGY INVOLVES DISCIPLINE, EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH AND A DEFINED PROCESS.

# THREE-STEP INVESTMENT PROCESS

# DEVELOP INVESTMENT PLAN (Own Equities)

- Timing of when you need the money
  - Bonds/cash for the next five to seven years
  - Stocks for long-term growth

## IMPLEMENT INVESTMENT PLAN (Diversify)

- Purchase low-cost, highquality mutual funds/ETFs
- Own US and International Equities
- Tilt portfolio towards investments with higher expected returns
  - Factors (small, value, and profitability)

# MONITOR INVESTMENT PLAN\* (Rebalance)

- Opportunistic rebalancing (buy low/sell high)
- Tax efficiency (tax loss harvesting)
- Market/life adjustments (stock target changes)



## **DEFINE INVESTMENT SUCCESS AS ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS**

Focus on long-term results, not short-term performance.



## **REPORT CONSOLIDATED PORTFOLIO RESULTS**

Holdings, balances, and returns available on FSI Client Center.



### **ONGOING COMMUNICATION**

Proactive advice and answers to your questions. https://www.financialsymmetry.com/news-insights/







### **DISCIPLINED INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

Team strategy built on over 20 years of experience, discipline, and evidence-based research.



#### WE INVEST THE SAME WAY AS OUR CLIENTS (FIDUCIARIES)



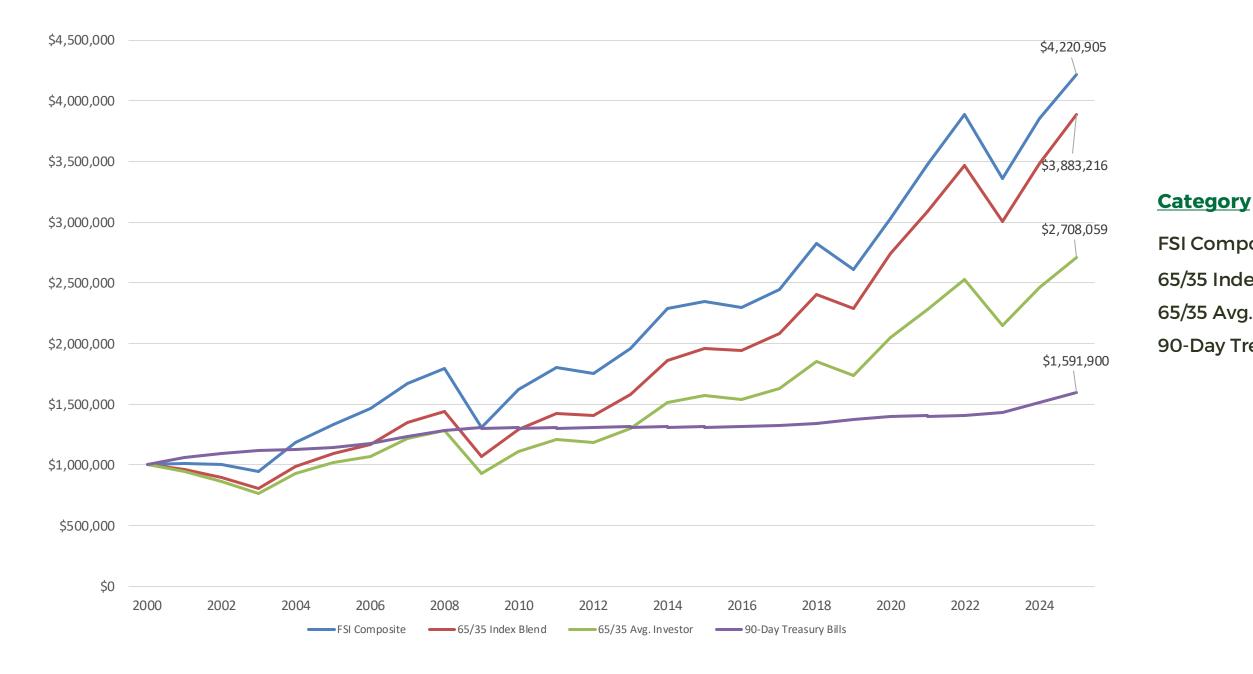
#### FAITH IN THE FUTURE

We have faith that human progress will continue, our global economy will continue to grow, and the markets will go up over time.



# **SIX THINGS TO EXPECT**

# FSI HISTORICAL RESULTS (1999-2024)



THE RETURN STATISTICS ABOVE REFLECT ACTUAL FSI CLIENT RETURNS AFTER FEES FROM 12/31/1999 TO 12/31/2024. THE AVERAGE FSI CLIEN T ALLOCATION DURING THIS PERIOD WAS APPROX. 65% STOCKS AND 35% FIXED INCOME. SEE NEXT SLIDE FOR FOOTNOTE DETAILS.

#### Annualized Returns 1999-2024

| FSI Composite         | 5.9%        |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| 65/35 Index Blend     | 5.6%        |
| 65/35 Avg. Investor   | <b>4.1%</b> |
| 90-Day Treasury Bills | <b>1.9%</b> |

# **FSI HISTORICAL** RESULTS

# **RETURNS FOR INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS** VARIED SIGNIFICANTLY DUE TO SEVERAL **FACTORS SUCH AS:**

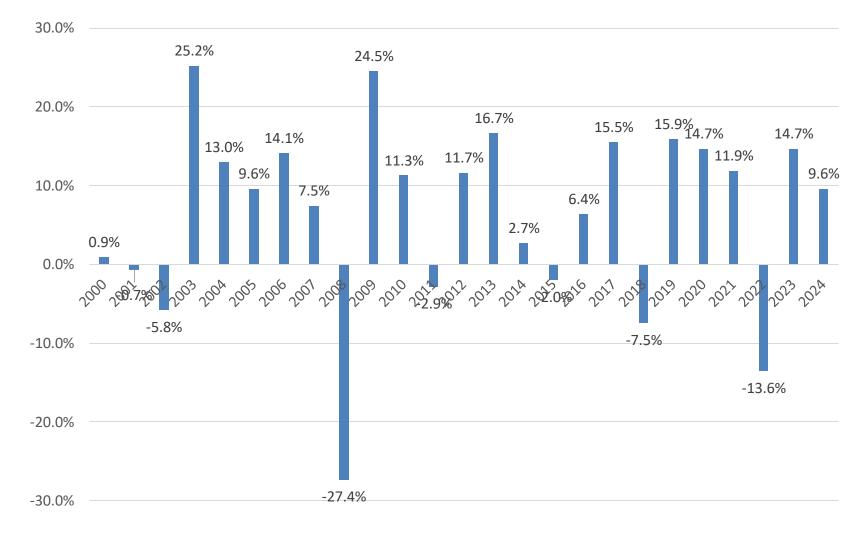
- Strategies are specific to each client's personal situation and represent a wide range of risk profiles.
- Some client holdings have low-cost basis and may be held solely due to the client's tax situation.
- We advise a portion of our clients on a non-discretionary basis, and some of our recommendations are declined by clients.

### FOOTNOTES

- The FSI Client Returns includes all Financial Symmetry investment management clients, representing 69 clients with \$25,499,759 of assets as of 12/31/1999 and 783 clients with \$1,176,778,681 of assets as of 12/31/2024.
- The 65/35 blend of indices used for comparison consists of:
  - S&P 500
  - MSCLAW
  - Russell 25
  - Barclays
  - US3Mon
  - Morgan S
  - MSCI Em
- The Average 65/35 Fund Investor annual return difference was 1.5% lower than the 65/35 Index Blend, as calculated from Vanguard Advisor Alpha study behavioral coaching value add.
- 90-Day Treasury Bills used as a cash proxy.

|                 | <u>1999-2013 </u> | 2014  | 2015-2024 |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------|-----------|
| Total Return    | 32.5%             | 32.5% | 32.5%     |
| VI Ex. US       |                   |       | 22.75%    |
| 500             | 4.5%              | 9.75% | 9.75%     |
| Aggregate Bond  | 20.0%             | 20.0% | 20.0%     |
| nth T-Bills     | 15.0%             | 15.0% | 15.0%     |
| Stanley EAFE    | 28.0%             | 19.5% |           |
| nerging Markets |                   | 3.25% |           |

# FSI ANNUAL RETURNS (1999-2024)

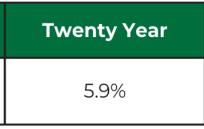


-40.0%

#### **Annualized Returns Ending 12/31/2024**

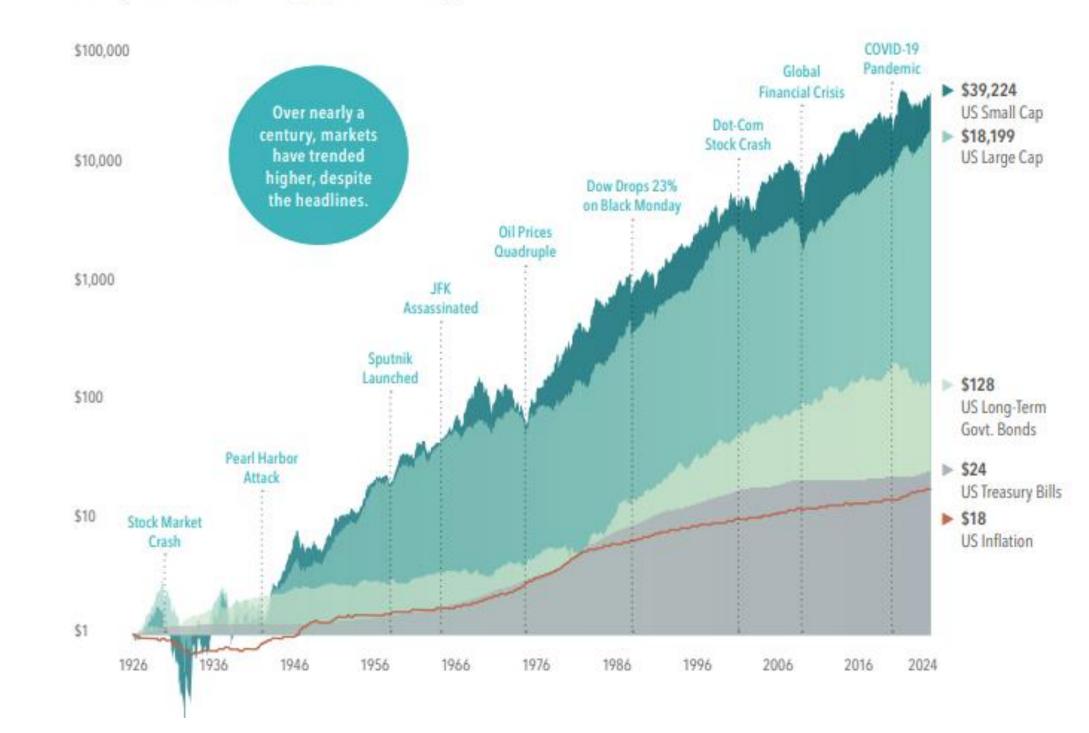
| ESI Composito | One Year | Five Year | Ten Year |
|---------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| FSI Composite | 9.6%     | 6.9%      | 6.1%     |

ABOVE ARE ACTUAL ANNUAL FSI COMPOSITE RETURNS AFTER FEES SINCE 2000 ON AN EQUAL-WEIGHTED BASIS. THE AVERAGE FSI CLIENT ALLOCATION DURING THIS PERIOD WAS APPROX. 65% STOCKS AND 35% FIXED INCOME. INVESTMENT RETURNS DON'T OCCUR IN A STRAIGHT LINE, WHICH IS WHY WE STRUCTURE YOUR PORTFOLIO BASED ON YOUR UNIQUE SITUATION, FACTORING IN YOUR EXPECTED FUTURE CASH FLOW (RISK CAPACITY).



- For nearly a century, equities have provided compound returns exceeding three times the general rate of inflation (see graph to right).
- Historically, equities have been the greatest generator of real wealth - net of inflation - effortlessly available to ordinary people.

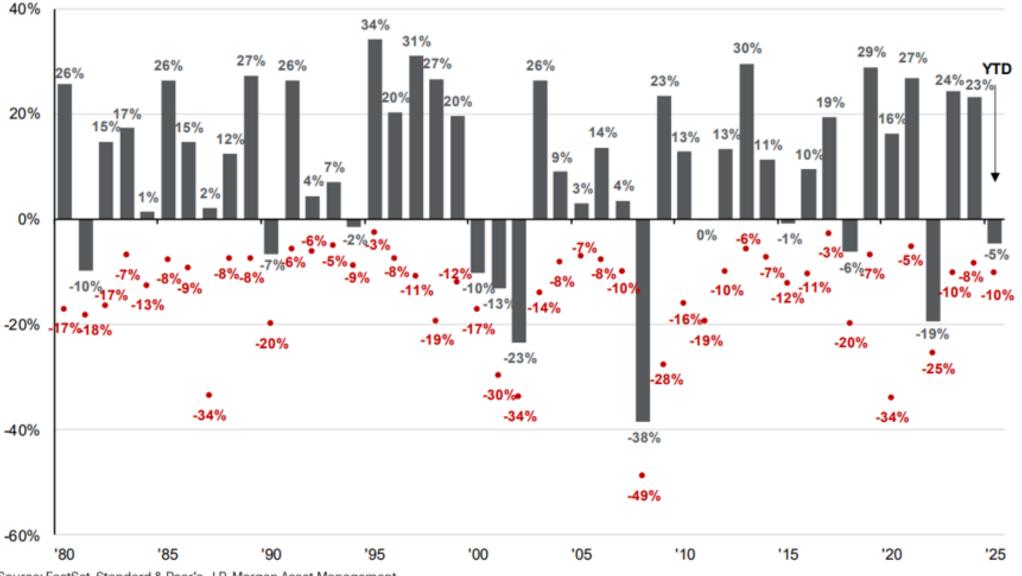
GROWTH OF A DOLLAR January 1926-December 2024 (compounded monthly)





#### S&P intra-year declines vs. calendar year returns

Despite average intra-year drops of 14.1%, annual returns were positive in 34 of 45 years



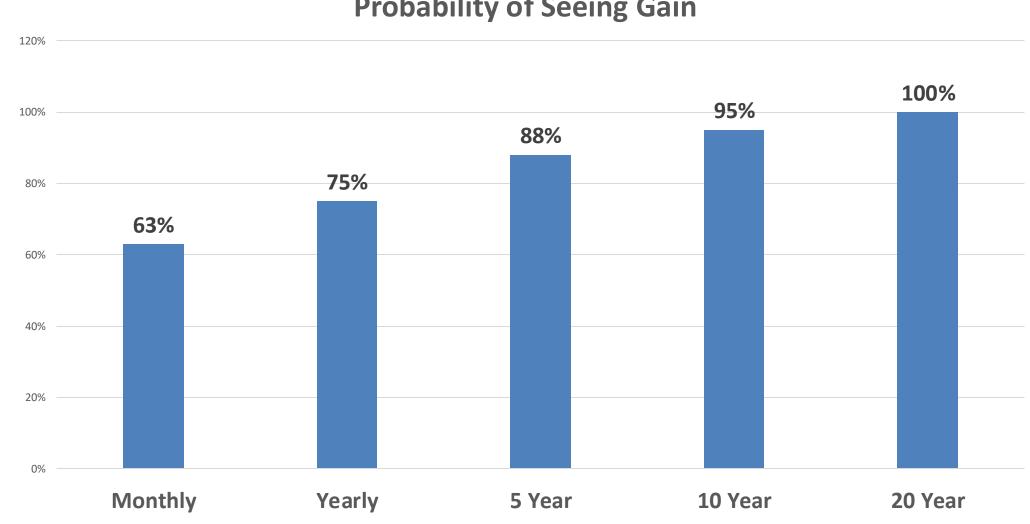
Source: FactSet, Standard & Poor's, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

Returns are based on price index only and do not include dividends. Intra-year drops refers to the largest market drops from a peak to a trough during the year. For illustrative purposes only. Returns shown are calendar year returns from 1980 to 2024, over which the average annual return was 10.6%.

Guide to the Markets - U.S. Data are as of March 31, 2025.

 Investors earn the long-term premium return of equities over bonds/cash as a reward for patiently enduring their occasional declines.

- Time has been the great healer in equity investing, in that the temporary declines have historically all passed away, while the premium equity returns abides.
- For nearly a century, approximately 88% of all the rolling five-year periods have produced positive equity returns with dividends reinvested.

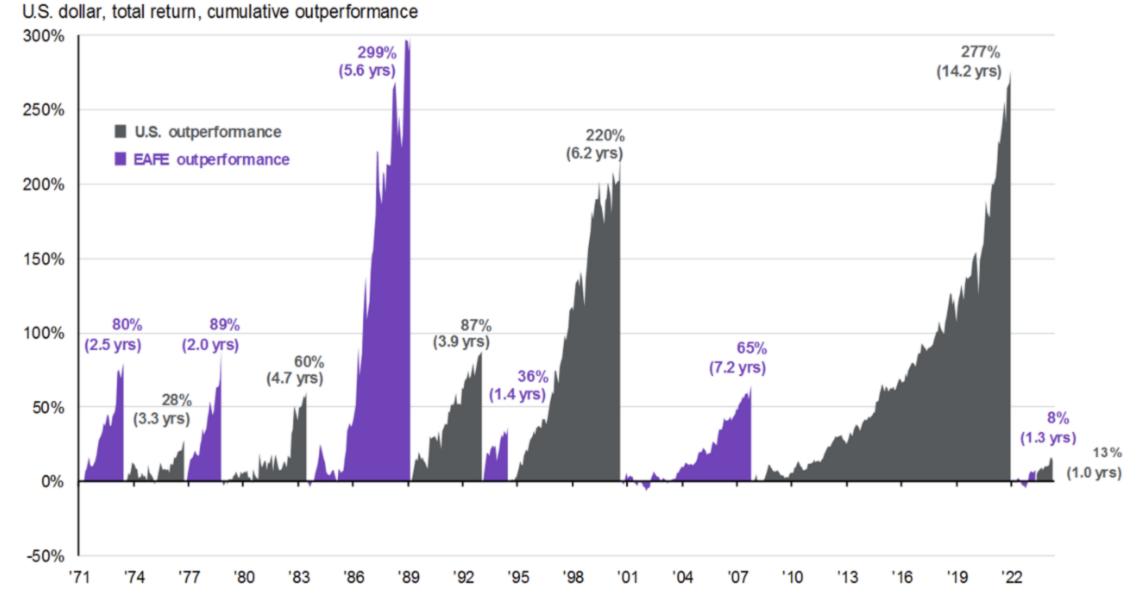


Source: Fama/French Total US Market Research Index

### U.S. Stock Market July 1926-March 2024 Probability of Seeing Gain

- Over the last 50 years, there have been different regimes of U.S. vs. international outperformance.
- Global diversification is a prudent form of risk management. However, it also means you'll never be fully invested in the best or worst performers.

#### MSCI EAFE and MSCI USA relative performance



Source: JP Morgan – Guide to Markets

# Ten Investment Principles

1. Your Goals – We are long-term, goal-focused, planning-driven6investors.Investors.

2. Own vs. Loan – Historically, the owners of companies (stocks) received a substantially higher return than their lenders (bonds/cash) because the owners take on more risk.

**3. Investor Behavior –** We've found that the more often investors change their portfolios (in response to fads or fears), the worse their long-term results.

4. Market Timing – We do not believe the economy can be consistently forecast, nor can the markets be consistently timed.

5. Market Declines – Investors earn the long-term premium of equities as a reward for enduring occasional declines.

6. Your Portfolio – We are short-term pessimists (bonds/cash) and long-term optimists (stocks).

7. Diversification – We believe in an intelligently diversified portfolio, which means some holdings will always be "underperforming."

8. Benchmarks – We only care about the benchmark that indicates whether you are on track to achieve your financial goals.

**9.** Investor Returns – We believe that ~90% of an investor's lifetime return will be driven by the percentage of their portfolio in equities, their behavior in response to market fads or fears, and the quality of their investment plan.

10. Opportunity – We tilt your portfolio towards investments with higher expected returns over decades, not days.