

BUILDING YOUR FINANCIAL PLAN

Building a financial plan can seem like a daunting task. Sometimes, our financial lives are in scattered pieces. During your lifetime, you'll face these financial issues:

Cash management: More than balancing the checkbook, this includes preparing (and following) a budget, using credit wisely, and keeping the income-tax burden low.

Risk management: Life insurance protects your family from loss in event of premature death. Disability insurance protects from loss due to inability to earn a living. Property and casualty insurance protects worldly goods in event of accidents, fire, flood, earthquake and theft.

Accumulation goals: We all need to save money for some reason. College education, buying a home and building an investment portfolio are examples of accumulation goals.

Retirement: Take action today to insure your later years are comfortable.

Estate planning: Recognize death is inevitable; plan for the transfer of assets to heirs.

Dealing with financial issues takes work! Two steps are involved:

Step 1 – Choose Your Financial Planning Team: In our complex world, expert help is needed. Consider trained professionals such as your attorney, CPA, tax consultant, insurance agent, broker, and financial planner for your team.

Step 2 – Develop Your Plan: With your team's help, develop a systematic, integrated plan for dealing with each issue. This becomes your financial plan.

You can ignore these issues until it is too late, or you can take steps to put your financial puzzle together and achieve financial security. The most important step is the first.

Steps to a Financial Plan

- 1. Surrender your work to God through prayer and meditation.***
- 2. Choose your team:*** Choose, as needed: Financial planner, tax advisor, insurance agent, broker, attorney, charitable giving advisor, trust officer.
- 3. Gather information:*** List your goals and objectives, show assets and liabilities, measure cash flow, and note the current status of retirement, estate, and risk-management plans.
- 4. Analyze data:*** Determine if current and future needs are met.
- 5. Team makes recommendations:*** Review your team's suggestions.
- 6. Implement:*** Select the plan that best fits your goals. Sign essential documents, purchase needed insurance, and re-allocate investments if necessary.
- 7. Periodic review:*** Because the world is constantly changing, advisors recommend an annual review of your financial plan.