

# Don't Blame the Stock Market for Destroying Your Wealth – Here's the Real Culprit

by SAMUEL N. ASARE  
MBA, ChFC®, CRPC®, CMFC®, CASL®, CLU®

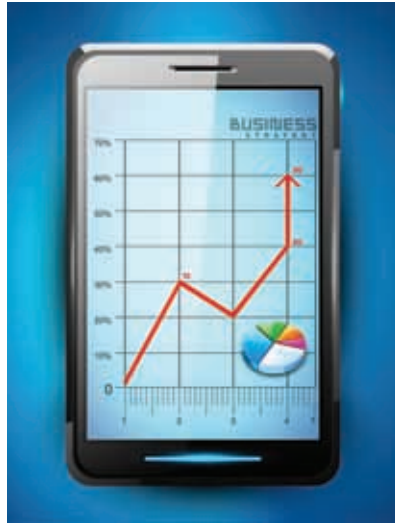
Among the many investing myths out there, one of the most lethal is the idea that when your stock portfolio plummets, it's solely the market's fault. As ridiculous and inaccurate as that notion may be, I don't fault you if, as an investor, you've thought all along that the stock market is responsible for your losses. And that's because many so-called financial advisors – and certainly many in the media – blame every loss in your portfolio on the stock market. I'll also understand if you are somewhat surprised by this information. Just take a deep breath and give me a couple moments as I dismantle this erroneous idea and hopefully save you from a lot of financial headaches in the future.

First, we'll need to get down to the very fundamentals. We know that the stock market is, by far, the greatest wealth creation tool in history, bar none. So it's only natural that most of us want to use it to grow our wealth over time. However, there is a right way and, by extension, a wrong way to go about it. The other thing about the market is that at any particular point in time it can go up or down. And we also know – or should know – that no financial advisor, or anyone you see in the media or anywhere on this planet, for that matter, can tell you exactly what the market is going to do next.

Did you notice that, so far, I haven't said anything that you don't already know? Unfortunately, however, many investors own portfolios that reflect a completely opposite strategy from the way the stock market really works. Many have fallen prey to advisors whose real agenda is only to sell something that sounds good so that they can get paid, instead of taking the time to help their clients build a portfolio that is efficiently diversified, according to the specific amount of volatility they can live with.

Although no one can predict exactly where the market is headed next, there is, in fact, such a thing as the right portfolio that is built just for you. Settling for a portfolio that ignores the rules of prudent investing may work for a while, but you will likely end up paying dearly for it sooner or later.

So... are you really comfortable and confident about your current portfolio? Are your investments truly diversified, in the real sense of that term, in a way that will help you to counteract the inevitable ups and downs that are bound to come along the road? Do you know exactly how much your portfolio is costing you in fees? In a nutshell, do you



know exactly what you are doing, why you are investing that way, and what you can expect in return?

In all likelihood, you've earned your money by working tirelessly, so please make sure that every last penny is invested prudently. I invite you to contact our offices for a complimentary session by either calling us at (877) 656-9111 or through our website at [LaserFG.com/Consult.php](http://LaserFG.com/Consult.php) so we can review your portfolio to make sure that it doesn't have any holes that could end up hurting your financial future. And yes, that's right! All your consultations with us are totally complimentary, with no strings attached whatsoever – just mention *Maryland Women's Journal*.

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Samuel N. Asare, MBA, ChFC®, CRPC®, CMFC®, CASL®, CLU®, CTP®, CBM®, is the Managing Principal at Laser Financial Group, author of multiple books, a regularly featured guest in several media outlets across the nation, an instructor to other financial professionals, and an avid cyclist. Please call 877.656.9111 or visit [LaserFG.com](http://LaserFG.com) to learn more about his practice.