

BECOME CEO OF YOURSELF 2



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Become CEO of Yourself 2

Build the Financial Mindset to Rule the World

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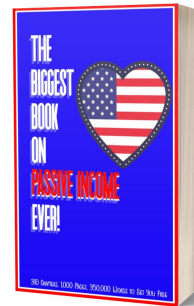
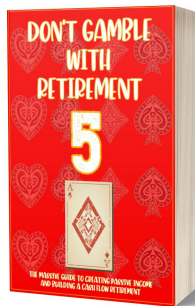
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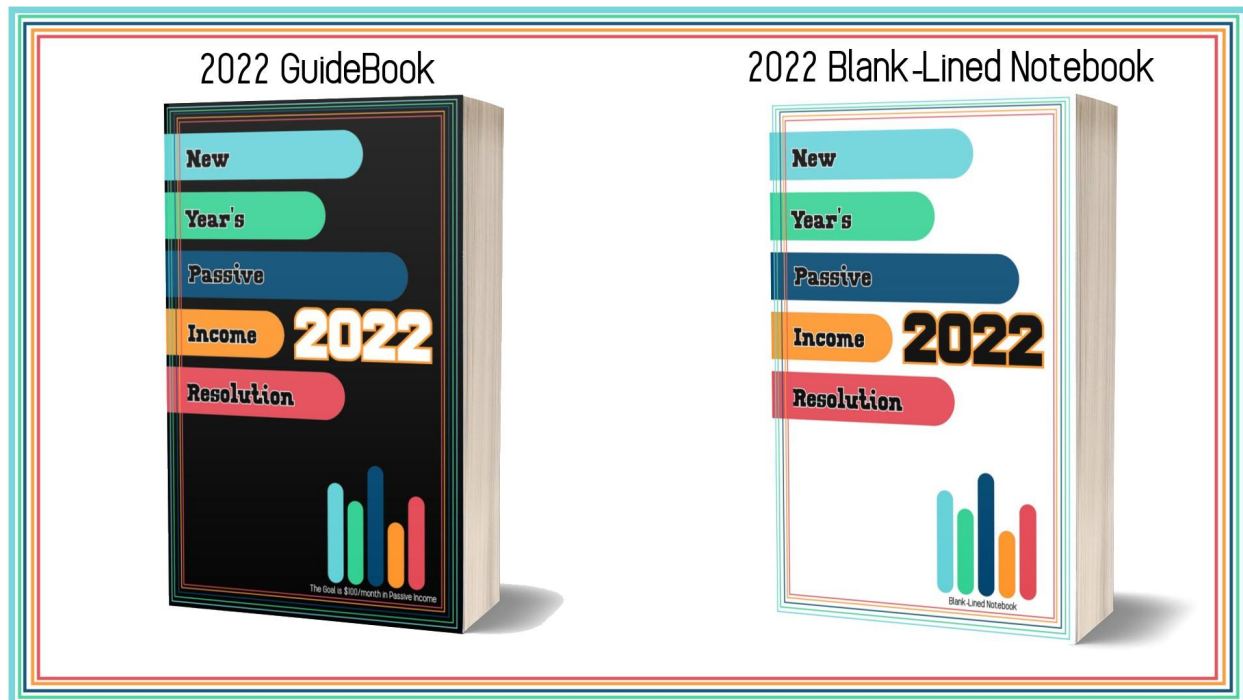
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INTRODUCTION



00 Become CEO of Yourself 2

The most challenging part of achieving everything we want in life is controlling our behaviors. We don't have much control over the results of our actions; however, we can control **our efforts** to obtain great results.

For example, we can wake up early every morning, make our beds, build our business, exercise, and read books all before the rest of our family wakes up. These actions ensure we accomplish all tasks we need to complete before the onslaught of the "real" day begins.

Once you begin to map out your personal life like a business, you will see results like a company. You will have become the CEO of yourself. Becoming CEO does have privileges as well as responsibilities.

You no longer get to blame others for your actions and lack of achievements. We will see a pay raise if we are working hard on our passive income streams. If we are slacking, we won't obtain any new income—everything is on us.

The Become CEO of Yourself series ([Part I](#)) gathers all the financial mindset articles I have written over the last few months. In this case, it has been seven months since the previous article, so I have 50 articles to cram into this edition.

Remember, your financial mindset is the most crucial part of achieving your financial goals. If you only want to earn money, go and get a job. If you're going to build an income stream, you'll need to add value. With that, let's jump into this mega article!

SELF MINDSET

One of the most important realizations of life is that [happiness isn't free](#). We have to work hard every day to ensure we meet our goals—this builds satisfaction and happiness. [Staying motivated](#) throughout the passive income journey is about setting small goals and achieving them. You should start a dividend portfolio with the small purpose of paying for an ice cream bar (\$5), for example—then build from there.

Once you begin to focus on your goals and walk your purpose, you'll realize that you have [become a serious person](#). Everything you do in life will become intentional, with the intent of not wasting time. However, you'll end up [losing many friends](#) along the path because people don't like it when others go against the grain or walk in a different direction. That's okay; you'll find many new friends that will help you compound your success.

When it comes to finding and building relationships, [life is not a game](#). The most important decision you make in life is who [you choose to marry](#). Choose the wrong spouse, and you may suffer a lifetime of mental, financial, and spiritual torment.

As marriage has core values that lead to success (love, trust, communication), so does passive income. The [core values of passive income](#) are self-education, self-dedication, and self-motivation. Using these core values will accelerate the rate of progress as you move along your journey to financial independence.

Some of us will choose to travel the path alone, without a partner. I ask you, "[What's So Great About Being Independent?](#)" Once you reach your goal, wouldn't it be nice to celebrate with someone you love? I'm just asking the question.

Finding [our limiting beliefs about money](#) is vital to our long-term success. If our childhood taught us money is bad or the root of all evil, overcoming these beliefs is necessary to obtain large quantities of cash. Even if we start with lemons (poor), we can make [passive income lemonade](#). As our passive income increases and our debt decreases, we can welcome ourselves to a new world called [Stress Freedom](#).

EDUCATION MINDSET

There is no better time to learn about finances and [passive income than during childhood](#). We, as parents, are responsible for our children's livelihood and education. Please make sure we teach our children to [become lifelong learners](#), and that formal [school doesn't interfere](#) with their self-education.

Some people will inevitably earn a high income but not know the tenets of passive income, investing, and wealth creation. We call these individuals HENRYs or [High Earners Not Rich Yet](#).

To ensure long-term wealth, HENRYs need to follow the core values of passive income and convert their high income into high passive income.

The new year comes at the end of each current year—what is your [new year's passive income resolution](#)? You should always have one for the upcoming year because this is how you [overcome financial adversity](#). Some good examples are \$100/month in dividends or \$50/month in royalties.

Setting consistent [daily goals like reading](#) is paramount to building income streams. However, just as important as setting goals is rewarding yourself for achieving them. [What gets rewarded gets repeated](#). So, if you train your brain to expect a prize, you'll be more likely to accomplish the goal. For example, I like to buy ice cream with my dividends.

Money is taboo in a society fueled by debt. People want to talk about buying liabilities but not how much (debt) these liabilities cost. [Why is talking about money bad?](#) I find that talking about investing, crypto, real estate, retirement, and business keeps me on my toes and keen on the future.

LIFE MINDSET

Nowhere is building passive income more important than helping you [achieve work-life balance](#). You are essentially buying your freedom from bondage by creating passive income streams. It's easy to balance work when you know that you'll be free from it one day. Trust me; I think about my upcoming freedom every day I leave for work.

As we settle down, we need to have a deep conversation about the primary provider. [Do men want to be providers](#)? Or do we want to split everything in half? I have been married for 16 years, and I am the provider. However, my wife has worked almost every day of our marriage, building a sizable dividend portfolio. There is room for everyone to achieve financial greatness.

Many people celebrate [happy financial independence day](#) as they move into the new [gig economy](#), leaving their 9-to-5 jobs behind. However, this gig economy comes with its own rules you need to understand. Mainly, you need to be responsible for your own retirement. If you [want to have everything you want in life](#), you'll have to be meticulous with your income.

Investing in the stock market and crypto exchanges has become a casino game. This “gamification” of the markets has led to the phenomenon of FOMO or Fear Of Missing Out. People will invest in meme stocks and shit coins to tame their FOMO. To counteract FOMO, one must enact [JOMO](#) or Joy Of Missing Out. [JOMO and FOMO](#) can co-exist in your brain; however, use the mindset of an investor to make the best long-term purchases.

To build the mindset of an investor, we will have to work at it. Yes, we will put in long hours at the office, but we still have to come home and grind. I like to call this the [passive income grind](#),

and it is the only way to achieve financial freedom. The good news is that once you have a winning formula, you [can relax and settle](#) in for the long run.

Most Americans get caught up in the [8-hour mindset](#). This mindset destroys wealth creation because they come home and watch Netflix and play games after eight hours of work. However, becoming a [Passive Income Hero](#) at night leads to financial freedom and independence. No one is going to build your income streams for you.

Just as bad as the 8-hour mindset is the mindset of always being busy. Some people make it a [business of being busy](#). They are always at meetings, meetups, soccer practice, PTA, events, charity, etc. Only making passive income will lead to long-term happiness because you will have actual freedom of time, money, and movement.

MONEY MINDSET

You can be yourself and make a ton of money because [being unique sells](#). If you want to play Pokemon games, wearing purple shirts while talking about politics, you will find an audience. Creating consistent daily content will ensure your success, no matter the niche. You must work on becoming excellent at what you do, though.

As you build your business, dividend portfolio, or real estate empire, always remember to [build wealth slowly](#). Inevitably, there will come a time where you could rush a decision. If the plan seems risky, understand that new opportunities always arise. Opportunities come from knowledge, not luck. There is no rush to build wealth, only to keep it.

Part of building wealth is [creating infinite returns](#). This is the art of buying or making assets and extracting all of your initial investment. You keep the cash-producing asset and have all of your capital back. You can then reinvest the capital into another cash-producing asset. We call this the velocity of money.

There is no [need to gamble with retirement](#). Dividends, real estate, and royalties worked for previous generations, and they will work for us as well. However, we can still use the new methods of today, such as real estate tokenization and the metaverse, to become rich for tomorrow. I call this [multi-generational investing](#).

The difference between [financial security and financial freedom](#) is enormous, but many people don't understand the logic. For some, financial security may be [having \\$100,000](#) in investments. However, financial freedom may be having \$100,000 a year in passive income. Financial freedom means you can live the exact life you want without working ever again.

On the other side of the spectrum, you'll meet people who plan to get rich by cheating. They want to extract wealth from others via [lawsuits, inheritances, and lotteries](#). Avoid these people as best you can. The real way to become wealthy, and the way that sticks, is to add value to society.

As the end of the year approaches and [Christmas is upon us](#), isn't it great to have [passive income](#)? There is nothing like having excess income versus expenses—we call this being wealthy. If you can build your revenue and reduce your costs, what would your life look like in the future? [What is your rich life?](#)

BOOK TAKEAWAYS

The book "[Effortless Money](#)" walks us through becoming one with our financial mindset. If you want to expand your learning ability, "[Limitless](#)" teaches speed reading and memorization.

Becoming rich is fantastic because you can pass this wealth on to future generations. However, "[Make Your Family Rich](#)" teaches us that you have to guide your children to succeed as CEO of the family empire.

The book "[Mindset](#)" describes the difference between a fixed mindset and a growth mindset. Which one do you think you'll need to build passive income? Remember, you can adjust your mind to the growth mindset.

CONCLUSION

Thanks for reading Become CEO of Yourself 2. That's 50 articles to help you build the proper mindset of an investor. Also, you will need to become an all-around good person who adds value if you want to become rich and stay rich. Please join my [Facebook Group](#), where I talk about passive income every day!

SELF MINDSET



01 Happiness Isn't Free

"I want a big house, a nice car, lots of money, and a wonderful spouse!" This statement is typically what a person decides will make them happy—this is their version of happiness.

If everyone dreams of this amazing life, then why do so many fall short? Well, happiness isn't free. Happiness is a combination of choosing what will make you happy and working towards that goal.



[Happiness Isn't Free](#)

My wife and I began our financial independence journey a little over two years ago. Over this small timeframe, we paid off all of our debt and invested \$170,000 into our dividend portfolio. I have also created an income stream from writing and releasing books.

I envision our life together as a straightforward affair. We are on a white sand beach with our kids and grandkids, and we are filthy rich. A simple life indeed. I understand that today, at age 40, that I have to build these income streams to happiness now.

Nobody is coming to save me. No one is going to airdrop me a crate with \$1 million. If I want to have passive income from retirement income, business, real estate, crypto, and investments, I must learn, create, and execute my plan today.

However, most people (97%) will never understand that they control their destiny. As a 40-year-old, I see my peers going on expensive trips and buying nice things. They are living their dream life now. We are thrilled now, but we are preparing ourselves to be even happier in the future.

You see, we are postponing (or delaying) a lot of our gratification. I would love to go back to Turkey with my wife next year. However, then we would both have to rush back and return to work. If we wait five years, we will both be fully retired, and we can stay for as long as we want.

For some reason, people **want** to work until they are 65-70 years old. I can see no other explanation for spending so much money [in their 40s](#). Maybe I see the world in a different light.

“Happiness isn’t free” is an expression that means we have to sacrifice something to be truly happy. My wife and I met in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in 2006. She spoke no English when we met. She now works a great job from home and manages our rentals. She is an amazing woman, and I love her more than anything in this world X10.

So many people I meet want to have the perfect spouse out of the box. They want their spouse to be educated, making good money, have no kids, be sexy as hell, etc. They don’t want to sacrifice anything to meet the perfect person—the perfect person for them.

So many people want to have vast streams of passive income, where they can stay home and have money falling from the sky. But passive income takes active work, at least upfront. The way to build up these income streams is to learn about them and then create them. There is no other option.

There is no easy answer. When I started my blog, it wasn’t good at all. I created artwork for my articles, and it was terrible—like using stick figures. But I had to start somewhere. I knew that I wanted to have [passive income from royalties](#). I didn’t want to do YouTube, art, or music, so I chose writing.

I didn’t choose writing because of some deep passion or self-desire to write; I chose it because my future on the beach requires it. Now, don’t get me wrong, [I absolutely adore writing](#) and the creative process. I would have never guessed I would feel this way. But I jumped in headfirst.

And that is the difference between you (hopefully not **you** in particular) and me. I want something extraordinary, passive income and being with the love of my life, so I am going for it. I understand that my wife and I cannot be on the beach without money. I can be on the beach on Saturdays and Sundays and continue to work, or I can live on the beach my whole life if I set up passive income streams. I know which one I choose.

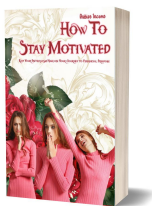
Now, what is [your rich life](#)? How does love come into play? How does money factor into your future? If you and your spouse love working and will continue to do so forever, then that's a great life as well. Every single person is different.

But if you see my wife and me chilling on the beach for three months straight when we are 48 years old, don't be mad at us. We understood that being happy on the beach wasn't free. We sacrificed our time, energy, and efforts to create income streams to allow us to be on the beach. What are you willing to sacrifice to achieve your dreams?



02 How to Stay Motivated

Every morning I wake up between 2 AM and 3 AM, and [I write 1000+ words](#) towards one of my topics. I then go run three miles before coming back to talk to my wife on the phone. When I get home from work, I edit my work, create fresh artwork, and publish my article. It has been my daily routine for 173 days consecutively.



[Passive Income: How to Stay Motivated](#)

At this point, it is not even a matter of motivation; I have hard-wired these events to take place every day. I don't wake up and decide if I want to write; I decide **WHAT** I want to write about. It was not hard for me to establish this routine because I see the light at the end of the tunnel.

My goal of becoming a writer is to live on the beach receiving passive income from [royalties](#), along with a [military pension](#), [Roth IRA](#), [rental income](#), and [dividends](#). As I write, I can see my future life on the beach with my wife, kids, and grandkids, and I never question my motivation.

[I Live Paycheck to Paycheck 3...So I Started a Business](#)

So, what is motivation? The book "[Limitless](#)" helped define motivation and put some good words towards understanding how we derive it. It defines motivation as **Purpose x Energy x Small Simple Steps (S3)**.

Of course, when I began writing, I didn't have this equation for motivation, but it is a straightforward way to visualize where drive and passion come from. Let's investigate the motivation equation in my own words.

Purpose. Your purpose may be the most challenging factor of the equation for humans to derive. In today's high-speed and flashy world, many people lack drive. We are told that we can do anything and be anyone, yet rarely are we given the skills and direction to accomplish these missions.

Finding your purpose starts with looking at your future and deciding where you want to be and who you want to be with. Another good point is that many people do not have a significant other. It is tough to envision your future if you do not have someone else in the picture. This is a whole different topic of conversation, and one for another day.

For today's discussion, ask yourself what do you truly want in life? If it is to be married and have kids, then that may be your purpose. If you are a woman, it may be to be a mother and homeschool your kids. If you are a father, you may want to ensure your family becomes financially free.

The roots you plant in your life come from your purpose. Finding your purpose may be one of the most critical jobs that you have in your entire life. When I got promoted to E9, Master Gunnery Sergeant, the highest enlisted rank in the US Military, I lost my purpose.

[\\$1,000 Dividend Spending Spree](#)

For a few months, [I had a mid-life crisis](#). I had spent the last 20 years working towards this all-encompassing goal of becoming an E9. I asked myself, "what is next?" Next was finding the path to financial freedom for myself, my wife, my kids, and my grandkids.

This purpose has led me to [invest in dividends](#), [buy real estate](#), and [write books and articles](#). This path was my true purpose and one that took me 38 years on Earth to find. Luckily, I have my beautiful wife by my side, traveling along these paths with me. Finding your purpose is a huge topic, so I will catalog it and come back with more articles.

[Start Your Debt Payoff Journey](#)

Energy. I would consider energy the physical aspect of getting your tasks done. For me, muscle memory is vital to continuing to achieve my daily tasks. By muscle memory, I mean [forming a daily routine](#).

When you form a healthy daily routine, the routine is the mission. You do not allow yourself time to think, “should I?” You wake up with a purpose and a mission, never stopping to wonder if you are on the right track.

How do you form habits? They say if you do something for thirty straight days, it will become a habit. I tend to believe this assessment. I tried writing sporadically, and it worked okay. However, I began to feel “moody” and would try to get into the right mindset to write.

Luckily, I read two books titled “[On Writing Well](#)” and “[The Practice](#)” that tell us that being a writer means that you write every day. Since I have read these books, I have written daily and have loved every minute of them.

Some things to have in your routine are exercise, diet, activity (writing, running a business, studying), and reading. Reading has to play a very prominent role in your daily activities, at least for 30 minutes a day. If you can read something **purposeful** every day, your motivation will remain strong.

[Accumulate Your First \\$100,000](#)

Form a daily routine of eating healthy, exercising, and reading, and I predict that you will have no issues maintaining energy and accomplishing your goals. If you lack energy, take an honest assessment of what you do daily. Oh, and write your goals down. I refer you to the book “[Think and Grow Rich](#),” which discusses the power of writing down your dreams and reviewing them daily.

Small Simple Steps. The final part of the equation is more tricky than complex. People love to have that big dream but fail to divide it up into small, simple steps. Sometimes, the steps are unknown or hidden, but you can achieve most things by keeping yourself moving forward.

For example, I didn’t know anything about [writing, blogging, or publishing books](#) when I began in January 2021. I also didn’t know anything about [advertising, marketing, and design](#). But over the months, I have made it my mission to build knowledge up in each of these areas slowly.

One thing I struggled with was creating a paperback. It seemed like a daunting task. At first, I became frustrated and gave up and continued to make ebooks. The more books I read, the more I understood that paperbacks are an entirely different stream of income. Many people only read paperbacks.

[Nobody Owes You Anything](#)

So I kept at it, watching YouTube videos about the finer details of publishing a paperback. Lo and behold, I released my first one roughly two weeks ago. Due to my [tendency to be unique](#), I use high gloss paperwork with color artwork, so my books are expensive. Nonetheless, I sold a paperback for \$15 and made an excellent royalty from it. My hard work has paid off.

Now, my next small, simple step for paperbacks is to release three this weekend, one for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. From there, if I can release one per week, I consider that a win. That is how you become great, slowly and over time.

Combine everything. I like the easy-to-remember equation of **Purpose x Energy x Small Simple Steps (S3) = Motivation**. If you can burn this equation into your head, you can start to identify your hang-ups if you are having trouble staying motivated.

[The Velocity of Money](#)

For example, if you desire to go to the gym every day, but can't seem to do it, run an analysis on your equation. What is your purpose in going to the gym—to feel better to look a certain way? Why do you lack energy—busy at work, dealing with kids? What are your steps to get into the gym—is your workout routine too complicated?

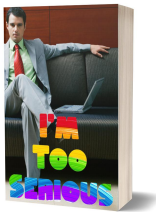
By running your analysis on the equation, you may pinpoint the area that you need to fix. I know that building a paperback seemed like a daunting task until I broke it down into small, simple steps. Now, each one I complete, I am making refinements to make the process more efficient.

Your thoughts? It is hard to give you all the answers in 1,400 words, but reading small articles can be just as effective as long books. Write down the equation, and run an analysis each time you try to form a habit but are getting stuck. You may be able to decipher the reason and create a path to complete the task successfully. In life, all we can do is try repeatedly. Enjoy and Happy Investing!



03 I'm Too Serious

When did America become a winter wonderland of fun, skiing, and lodges? Or how about a summer wonderland of boating, parasailing, and swimsuit parties? At last, maybe it was always that way, I just never noticed.



[I'm Too Serious - Free PDF Download](#)

Returning to America after a year overseas has been eye-opening. While overseas, I started an income stream of [writing articles](#), [releasing ebooks](#), and [reviewing other books](#). In addition to this income stream, I manage three properties, multiple tenants, a dividend portfolio, cryptocurrencies, and, of course, I have a wife and two kids.

However, I never feel too busy or overwhelmed. Yes, I cannot wait to retire from my full-time job to focus on becoming rich, but all in due time. I spend my time with my family and my personal time working on my income streams. I guess my hobby is being on the [passive income grind](#).

[Do Men Want to be Providers?](#)

I have a [Facebook Group](#) and a [Facebook Page](#) that I post to daily. When I log into Facebook, I see everyone else having a grand ol' time [in their 40s](#). I see people on boats, going to theme parks, traveling, buying RVs and motorcycles, etc. I don't know how they do it.

I mean, I am trying to ensure the wealth and health prospects of my current and future bloodline. I have no idea what the future holds, so I prepare for the unknown by making (then investing) a crap ton of money.

This future-based outlook makes me very serious. I asked my wife of 15 years a couple of days ago if I was too serious. She said, "you were always serious." I guess I was. When I was young in the Marine Corps (10 years in, rank of E-6), my friends would be "playing house" while I prepared for the next ranks.

By playing house, I mean buying toys (ATVs, sand rails, jet skis, etc.), getting pets, and traveling. I always thought, get to the highest rank (E-9) and then play around. I have been an E-9 for two years, and I am thinking about the future even more.

My wife and I are in talks to purchase our next home. This place will be our fourth house. We haven't even owned house #3 for two years yet. We are investors, and we are not buying this next house for our benefit—it's for our kids and grandkids.

[What's So Great About Being Independent?](#)

The home we are looking at is a brand new mobile home and is super nice (and expensive). We will place the new home on our current three-acre lot, along with house #3. As you know from my article "[Mortgage Positive](#)," our primary residence is already cash flowing because we rent out our two master suites.

The new home could have cash flow if we take on two roommates, but we may get a little comfortable and only rent out the master suite in the new place. This way we can stretch out our legs a little.

And that is what life is about, [financial security vs. financial freedom](#). We want to give ourselves and our children options. When all is said and done, my property will have eight rentable rooms that my kids can use to build wealth, all at 2021 mortgage prices. How sweet is that?

When I see everyone playing around, having fun, and spending money, I just think, "how long do you all want to be in the workforce?" The longest I will work until is age 48; my wife will be 45. We will be completely, utterly, and entirely retired. [No freakin' way I am working another 25 years](#).

[JOMO- The Joy of Missing Out](#)

But this is when we just get started. We are doing everything in our power [to live the laptop life](#) and have the [ability to move overseas](#). We can take our [real estate mindset](#) to a market or country where our capital will give us an advantage.

I just don't understand how people can [party on earned income](#)—it baffles me. You see, when we work for money, it is fleeting. When we stop working, the money stops. So we can party all we want, we still need to go back to work on Monday. Why do we celebrate this hamster wheel in America?

To remove ourselves from the rat race, we need passive income. Right now, our \$185,000 [dividend portfolio](#) produces roughly \$500/month in revenue. That \$500 is equal to one day in America and one week in overseas living. So we have a long way to go to set ourselves free.

However, it's not that far away when we throw in a military pension, Roth IRA, cryptocurrencies, royalties, automated business, and real estate. Outside of my family, these are my focus for the remainder of my life.

As I learn, I teach my kids words that I didn't grow up within my household. These words include "The rich don't work for money" and "Make your money work for you." These ideas are vital to the long-term viability of my family. Wealth begets wealth—as long as we pass on this knowledge.

[The Invisible Budget](#)

So, yes, I am very serious. I do have fun. Walking through the most expensive new mobile home on the lot is fun for my wife and me. I don't have to worry about financing because we are debt-free, have an 800 credit score, and \$185,000 in the bank. That's fun to me.

I always like to leave my articles with actionable steps to make your life better any way you deem is meaningful. If you are ready to start your passive income journey, I have a great place to start.



I just released a labor of my love. The book “[Don’t Gamble with Retirement 4](#)” is now available on Amazon for \$9.99. More importantly, I didn’t put it under Amazon exclusivity, so I have it up on my website for [free download here](#). I love this book. The cover strikes me every time I see it.

The book is 385 pages and 100 chapters to set you free. I love giving my books away for free; that is how I always envisioned adding value to the world. Now, I am taking back ownership of my books and getting them out to everyone for free.

If you are ready to be serious, go ahead and grab this book. Also, you should read it; that helps as well. I hope you are finding value in my words and artwork. This grinding comes from a place of love. We are blessed in all aspects of my life, so it's time to give back. Enjoy and Happy Investing.



04 Losing Friends? You're Doing Something Right

It's funny how much my 15-year old son loves hanging out with friends. As parents, I try not to rain on his parade and tell him the truth. As we age, our friends do not want us to succeed.



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Don't get me wrong; we should have 2-3 true friends. We may even have some family members that are an asset to our lives. But make no mistake about it, once you start to get your shit together, your friends want nothing to do with you.

I remember when I started [blogging my way to financial independence](#). I thought my friends and family would be highly supportive. Nope. It's almost the exact opposite. It is almost like a mirror they see telling them to get their act together.

[Create a Never-Ending Stream of Content 2](#)

It starts with reading. When I started reading powerful new ways of thought, my views on standard topics began to change. For example, many people do not know the difference

between leverage and debt. Reading "[Unfair Advantage](#)" taught me to buy a home instead of a new car.

Now, when my friends buy new cars, boats, and motorcycles, I am unimpressed. So I guess it is me that has changed. However, I do not hold their buying habits against them—I could care less. And therein lies the rub.

They want to celebrate. The main thing that separates friends over time is your lack of enthusiasm for their choices. When they buy a brand new motorcycle, they want you to show excitement and interest. Meanwhile, you are [hyper-focused](#) on [building a business](#) and your next [real estate venture](#).

If you have kids, we praise them to show our love. Friends are similar in that sense; however, they are adults. When I see a 40-year old adult buying a new \$60,000 car, either cash or with a loan, I cringe. There are so many more productive things we can do with that cash.

They know how you feel about their choices. They may be in and [out of relationships](#), visiting nightclubs and drinking, or unhappy most of the time. They may even complain about money yet refuse to use their free time to [build a passive income stream](#).

[What is Passive Income?](#)

Being an adult. When you start to take retirement seriously, [at any age](#), you become an adult. When you begin to value [making your family rich](#) and focus on estate planning and succession planning, you become an adult. **People don't like adults.**

Your true friends. You are a composite of the five people with whom you spend the most time. Who do you want to be then? I recommend two books on upgrading your mindset that can help you figure out your direction.

"[Mindset](#)" is a book that focuses on the difference between growth and fixed mindsets. Most of your friends will have a fixed mindset. It will be tough for you to grow when you surround yourself with people who don't believe in growth.

[The Succeeding in Reading](#)

"[Limitless](#)" teaches us how to unlock our brains to improve the process of learning. If you follow what this book teaches, you will be light years ahead of your friends. And, they will know how far you have come.

Build your own community. Once you start down your path, you will most likely have to build your community. That's okay; there are many ways to build a community of like-minded individuals.

I am a [huge fan of blogging](#) to attract like-minded folks or [build a niche community](#). But you can start a Facebook group or YouTube channel. So many people want to succeed in life—why surround yourself with unhappy, tired, boring people?

[Sustainable Riches](#)

Many of your friends, especially as you become older, [will always be busy](#). You need to focus on the business of your business. Do not fall into the trap of “fake” meetings and engagements. You need to become rich for your sake and the sake of your family.

Conclusion. It sucks losing friends, but if you are reading this, you are on a different path. Your journey doesn't involve watching sports, news, and Netflix. You are building streams of passive income, strong family ties, and building generational wealth.

We can travel down the path together. Leave me a comment on what you think about losing friends. Also, follow me on [Twitter](#) to see my new Freedom PDFs as they release. Thank you, and good luck on the path!



05 Life is Not A Game

Wow, I am 40 years old, and I am starting to realize how life works. I have realized that [the more serious](#) I take life, the easier it becomes. Also, the more fun I have with my family and friends ([if I have any](#)), when our finances are performing well.



[Free 43-Page PDF Download \(\\$2.99 Value\)](#)

This article stems from some recent conversations my wife and I have been having. I was on my way back to Japan, and the airline canceled my flight to Seattle due to the weather. So, I have been stranded in Seattle for nine days and hopefully leaving in a few hours.

Anyways, my wife and I have talked for hours on end while I pace my hotel room. Although we talk about issues with [our properties, jobs, and friends](#), nothing truly concerns us. **Why is this?**

[Why You Should Learn Creativity & Design](#)

Nothing concerns us because we have worked hard to get ahead of the power curve of life. As soon as we started taking life and finances seriously in early 2019, our lives have changed significantly for the better. Life is not a game.

Let's take a trip. My wife was talking about our earlier days of marriage. We [have been married](#) for 15.5 years and have had the requisite ups and downs—and made money mistakes. I remember buying every annual iPhone release for four straight years. Now my phone is 4.5 years old.

That is part of taking life seriously. Getting your finances together and preparing for retirement will change your life—[especially if you are average](#) (like us). I think the biggest misconception floating around is that saving five percent (with additional employer-matching) will somehow be enough money to retire comfortably.

The first step to taking life more seriously is finding out how much [cash flow](#) you [will need in retirement](#)? There is nothing more vital than having an income plan. After the income plan comes the tax, estate, and succession plans.

Why is the income plan essential to our current lives? How can you truly enjoy today if you don't know what tomorrow holds? Let's look at two examples of a carefree couple in their 40s and another serious couple, also in their 40s.

[Create a Never-Ending Stream of Content 2](#)

Carefree couple, 40 years old. Our carefree couple loves to eat out and travel. They religiously save five percent of their combined \$150,000 salary. Their companies match their contributions

to their 401Ks. Outside of their 401Ks, they have \$50,000 saved into high yield savings account for emergencies.

When they reach age 66, they will have \$1.3 million. The income from their investments will be \$4,300 (pre-tax) plus a combined \$4,000/month from social security. They are doing well with \$8,300/month of passive income at age 66.

The problem is they are not satisfied living on this budget. This amount of cash is a lot less than their working years, and they were hoping to travel the world during retirement. Although they are comfortable, nothing satisfies them like traveling, and they can't travel nearly as much as they would like to annually.

[My 60-Day Pre-Retirement](#)

Serious couple, 40 years. Our serious couple also makes a combined \$150,000/year. They, too, invest five percent (matching) in their 401Ks. Their hobbies include international travel, football games, and expensive wine tastings.

At age 40, they somehow discover the fantastic book by Joshua King 9 (me) titled "[Don't Gamble with Retirement 3 + 4 \(free pdf\)](#)." They learn the most critical part of a future plan is having a plan (no pun intended).

They decide that they want to [achieve \\$20,000/month](#) in passive income by age 66. In addition to the same \$8,300/month that the carefree couple makes, they also start planning other passive income sources.

They decide to save and invest 60% of their income by [house-hacking](#), [blogging](#), and running a [small vending machine operation](#). They invest their income into [high-yield products](#) to receive a high return and keep a [small dividend growth](#) portfolio for their heirs.

[Over-Budgeting 2: Low Expenses, High Income](#)

By working their [rear-ends off during their 40s](#), they achieve \$20,000/month in passive income by age 55. This total is before social security and 401K withdrawals. They decide to [retire rich, retire comfortably](#) while running their blogs and vending machine business.

The serious couple is infinitely content with their choices and each other. Best of all, they [learned how to create money](#)—and build and maintain wealth. If an emergency arises, they know how to counteract it by making more income.

What did you learn from this simple example? As two people who became serious together, I can tell you that [forging a path together](#) is so much better than not having a plan. As soon as my wife and I decided to create enough [passive income to live overseas](#), our lives changed forever.

Life is not a game where we all end up as winners. The vast majority of us will not be content with our income at age 66. Why would **we not want** to enjoy this magical time in our lives? Because most of us over-spend the [earned income](#) during our working years.

How do I start taking life more seriously? Okay, how much money do you make today? Are you satisfied with this amount? If you make \$120,000/year now while working, and you're happy, then plan for needing \$120,000/year in retirement (inflation-adjusted).

[I Have Everything I Want in Life... And Then Some](#)

The difference is that you will not be working, so passive income is the key to keeping your income. Once you understand how much money you need to earn passively, the next step is to focus on [your financial mindset](#). Building streams of passive income is not easy, and it can take its toll on your mind.

After you have the right mindset, understand how challenging the task ahead will be, and accept the challenge, you just need to know what income stream you want to build.

I divide my passive income into six types; retirement income, rents, dividends, royalties, cryptocurrencies, and automated business. Take it one at a time, set your goals, and go after them.

You'll become serious. As you (and your partner) begin to focus on your goals, you'll become more serious. You will exchange things like boats, motorcycles, and RVs for dividends, ATMs, and land. It sounds boring, but nothing is more fun than becoming rich together, over time!

[Become a LifeLong Learner. Become Rich](#)

My wife and I started young and poor in 2006. Now, we have a \$200,000 dividend portfolio, three homes, a military pension (coming), and a blog/book business. I am 40, and she is 37. We have so much more life to live.

We don't worry about little things like we used to in the early days. Everything we do has some sort of future implication, yet we can still let loose and [spend dividends on a whim](#). The sooner you start working towards the future, the sooner you'll achieve your financial goals.

Conclusion. Who would you like to be, the carefree couple or the serious couple? Although the names sound confusing, make no mistake, the serious couple will be happier throughout life.

Don't let the world tell you that your 5% investment per month is enough for retirement. Life is not a game, and what's at stake is your long-term health, fun, and livelihood. All you have to do is say the magic words, "**Life, I take you seriously.**"

If you like this content, please follow me on [Twitter](#) as well as my [Facebook page](#). I post articles daily, as well [as free pdfs](#) a few times a week. Enjoy and Happy Investing.



06 The Magic of Marriage

Love, Purpose, Duty, and Respect are principles of a successful marriage. It will be hard to find someone who follows and believes in these principles, but they exist. However, to find this person, you will have to live and die by these remarkable principles as well. Do you?



[The Magic of Marriage](#)

Life is full of surprises, and getting married and having children is one of them. No matter what you think marriage is, it will be vastly different than what you expect. After 15.5 years of marriage, I can say marriage is 100% better than I could have imagined.

[We got married in February 2006](#), during the cold season of Helsinki, Finland. I was a young US Marine, age 25, and Kris came from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, age 22. We didn't have much at this age, and that's genuinely how married life starts best.

[How We Built 13 Streams of Income](#)

Everything we have today, we built together from the fateful day in February 2006. We bought our first house in October 2008, and it has been an ass-pain ever since. However, we still have it, and it gives us a little rental income each month.

We bought our second house in 2017 and our third in 2020. Through all the [ups and downs of homeownership](#), our love has grown more potent than ever. The funny part is that once we started taking our [finances more seriously](#), we realized that [life was not a game](#).

That's the true magic of marriage. It's not buying cars, boats, and huge mansions together; anyone can do that. **The true magic of marriage is building an empire based on love, trust, and financial responsibility.**

When both members of the marriage work towards the same goal, there is nothing the marriage cannot achieve. On the path to financial independence, [two people are better than one](#). Yes, things will start off rocky—that's part of life.

However, learning the language of money will translate to better communication of love, romance, and finances. I'll give you some examples.

[My Grandkids: Why I Will Never Work for Anyone Else Again](#)

Buying new furniture. Women (and men) love to upgrade things around the house. Instead of saying "no," first figure out the total cost to upgrade the particular room. Then, set small goals to achieve over the next year. For example, "let's save \$300/month until we can upgrade our living room."

Not only does it keep the couple on the same page, but it also keeps them on the same purpose. There is nothing to argue about because you lay everything out, and both have agreed.

Buying a car. Having a car payment is one of the most destructive things to do to your wealth. But, I (kind of) understand that people want the safety of new cars. How long you keep your vehicle is where you make money. If the intent is to keep the car for 10-15 years, it may not be a bad idea.

But, you'll need to discuss these things before. Not just "I want this car," but deep conversations about how this purchase will affect your investments and ability to support your children in the future.

[20 Creative Ways to Make Money from Home](#)

The naysayers. I know many people out there are saying, “I can just stay single and decide how to manage my own money!” Yep, you sure can—a couple of things.

1) There is absolutely no challenge in staying single. You do whatever you want; however you want, and whenever you want. Okay. It sounds fun until you are 60 years old, and things become much different.

2) Becoming a power couple is the best feeling in the world. Eventually, you’ll reach a point where money is not an object. The married couple will hit this point much faster than the single person.

Marriage, the wealth accelerator. Yes, most married couples live an excellent quiet life without much in the way of finances. That’s not the magic of marriage. You harness the magic of marriage when you both gain financial education.

Once you understand the process of building a [cash flow retirement system](#), [multiple streams of income](#), [starting businesses](#), [living on dividends](#), and [creating royalties](#), life morphs into something much different.

My wife went from [-\\$77,000 to +\\$150,000 in 22 months](#). Now we are sitting on \$200,000 in our dividend portfolio, three houses, and budding writing business. Each month we are saving and investing \$5,000-\$7,000.

[Strong Finances, Strong Marriage: 10 Steps to a Healthy, Wealthy Marriage](#)

We don’t worry about shit anymore. We have enough cash flow to insulate us from the common emergencies that could deeply affect our financial relationship. Life is near-perfect when you have the money to live in peace.

Our purpose. Now, we have a shared purpose of ensuring our kids can live their best lives. That doesn’t mean that we give them piles of cash—the exact opposite. It means that we speak the language of money.

When our kids grow up, we can help them buy houses, start businesses, and invest in the stock market. That is truly how they will become [healthy and happy](#), not [through a job](#). Being able to focus on our children’s wealth and happiness has brought Kris and me closer together.

Our Grandkids. I don’t like the current school system. When I went through in the 80s and 90s, things were much different—there was more passion from kids and teachers. I am making it a priority to homeschool my grandkids. I think that we can do a better job of preparing our grandkids for the future than school. Maybe I am wrong, but when you are rich, you’re always right (joke).

[Retire Early as a Well-Rounded Millionaire](#)

Our Love. Through it all, our bond has grown stronger than ever. We met when we were still babies (age 23 and 20). We made mistakes, of course, but we never questioned our love for each other. It's hard to imagine a world without Kris. I have talked to her every single day for the last 18 years (except some days in Afghanistan). She is a part of who I am.

When I started this investment journey and [path to financial independence](#), she jumped right in with me—no questions. And it was that trust that helped me gain the confidence to invest in the stock market, buy multiple homes, and start releasing books!

Together we can do everything, and boy, does it feel good to become rich together. There is no better feeling than waking up next to my beautiful wife, having the entire day to ourselves, and getting \$100 in dividends. Together, that is the life we will live forever.

[When Life Gives You Lemons... Make Passive Income Lemonade](#)

Conclusion. Today's world doesn't value marriage as much as it used to, but that's okay. All that matters is that you value the sacred bond between two complete strangers. The idea that two complete strangers can build an empire together is total madness (in a good way).

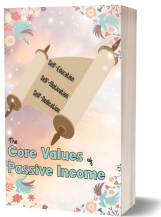
Learning how to communicate finances will also assist you in talking about love and romance. If you can articulate your needs and desires, you'll have a successful marriage. Don't let the love of money prevent you from building something special. In the end, you can have it all; you just have to sacrifice a little upfront.

Thanks for reading. I don't talk about marriage enough. However, getting married was the true life-changing event in my life. Please follow me on [Twitter](#) and [my Facebook Page](#), where you'll see my daily articles and new book releases. Enjoy and Happy Investing!



07 The Core Values of Passive Income

A US Marine has three core values that we live by—honor, courage, and commitment. These are words we count on in the most difficult of times. Two years into my [journey to financial independence](#), I found that there are also core values on this path.



[Free 40-Page PDF Download \(\\$2.99 Value\)](#)

Building streams of passive income isn't for everyone. In fact, most people don't have what it takes to build an income stream from a few bucks to a massive river of revenue. It's not that people aren't smart enough; it's more that they can't navigate through the desert alone.

Finding a path. You see, you can read as many books as you'd like and watch YouTube until your eyes bleed, but your income stream will be different than everyone else's. Your income stream is a very personal affair, and no one can build your stream for you.

[Do What You Love or Love What You Do?](#)

When I started [writing and book publishing](#), I went in my own direction. Most people don't write their own stuff; they have ghostwriters do all the heavy lifting. Others just publish low-content books and use keywords and [SEO to get sales](#).

I wanted to write because it is challenging, and it adds value. I am not [writing 1000+ words](#) a day for monetary gain (it's a nice perk); I am writing to leave an impact on others. I had never heard the words [passive income](#) until I was 38 years old—that's ridiculous.

Since then, I have wanted to ensure everyone has access to free content that could potentially change their life. All they have to do is read and take action, and that is where the core values of passive income come into play.

Estimated Royalties

\$86.93*

All 298 books

Nov 1 - 30, 2021

Core values. I would love to say that building passive income streams is easy, but I'd be lying. However, it is not difficult—when you have the right mindset. It comes down to how badly you want to achieve success.

[How Do You Define Being Rich?](#)

I started my writing and publishing career on January 4, 2021. I made \$3 [in royalties](#) that month. Ten months later, in November 2021, I made \$87 in royalties. The problem is that most people look at \$87 and scuff, saying, "I can make much more than that by working."

That employee mindset is what holds us back from greatness. I look at my \$87 and thank wow, that's 27X more money than I made in my first month. To me, it's a crazy amount of cash flow. I also know that if I continue to add value, the monetary rewards follow. That's right, value first, cash flow second.

You see, I built a dividend portfolio from the ground up already. I started with \$0.03 in June 2019, and now it's over \$600 in November 2021. Passive income starts slow and [compounds exponentially](#) faster. Again, with the right mindset, you can prepare to receive this wealth.

I will outline my core values of passive income, which are self-education, self-motivation, and self-dedication. Yes, I know [family and relationships](#) are vital to [wealth creation](#), but I want to focus on ourselves today. At the end of the day, we have to wake ourselves up [during the magic hours](#) to get work done. Nobody is coming to save us. Let's begin.

[J.O.M.O. The Joy of Missing Out](#)

Self-Education. I'm starting with self-education because you derive your thirst for passive income from knowledge. When you see a YouTuber making \$1 million per month, limiting beliefs tell you that you cannot achieve this feat.

However, with self-education, you'll understand how they accomplished this goal. Even better, you can go back and evaluate their journey step-by-step, which helps you build your plan.

So, where do you start your journey to enlightenment? [Reading is the number](#) one most important part of creating income streams. Yes, the number one. You can [grind 15 hours](#) a day and not get anywhere because of the wrong mindset or techniques.

The goal is to read enough books that you start to formulate your own ideas. Trust me; if you read enough, your mind will take you to some crazy goals, visions, and paths. Our minds want us to succeed, but what we consume during the day limits us most of the time.

I would start by setting the goal of reading one book a month. I am reading at least one book a week, but I am at that stage of understanding. One book a month is a great place to start your journey.

[Become CEO of Yourself](#)

Here are some books I recommend to get you started. Again, build the habit of reading before you progress further down your passive income journey. Because when things get hard, which they will, you'll have the proper mindset to get you through tough times.

- a) ["Rich Dad, Poor Dad"](#) by Robert Kiyosaki
- b) ["I Will Teach You to be Rich"](#) by Ramit Sethi
- c) ["Limitless"](#) by Jim Kwik
- d) ["Mindset"](#) by Carol S. Dweck
- e) ["The Millionaire Fastlane"](#) by MJ DeMarco

Self-Motivation. Unless your parents left you millions of dollars, a business, and taught you how to be an entrepreneur from birth, you probably work a job. I have been working a job for 25+ years; 22+ of those have been in the US Marine Corps.

Creating passive income is an entirely new mindset compared to [being an employee](#). Even if you are building a dividend portfolio, you still need the [perspective of an entrepreneur](#). As a dividend investor, you have to understand business to invest in companies.

[What's So Great About Being Independent?](#)

Every passive income stream has a time requirement. Last I checked, you have a limited amount of time on this Earth. Most of us have jobs, spouses, families, and other responsibilities to perform. How are we supposed to build a passive income stream when we are [already business enough](#)?

This is where your self-motivation keeps you going. You need to know your goals and stick to them. **Every.Single.Day.** Yes, passive income isn't a weekend thing. Every day, you should interact with your income streams—even if that consists of watching today's stock market highlights.

Every day I check into my websites for stocks, retirement planning, real estate, and business. I also look at my dividend portfolio and update my spreadsheets. Of course, [I write 1000+ words](#) a day for my writing career. I am busy, but I have never had more time.

You see, I convinced myself that I love all these things, along with running and staying in shape. That's how you derive genuine self-motivation; you just make everything a part of your life—no questions, no options, no opinions.

[I Have Everything I Want in Life...And Then Some](#)

Most people love to watch Netflix, the news, sports, and politics. This is how they spend their time. However, the passive income seeker doesn't have [time for this nonsense](#). They [are motivated](#) to add value and build income streams.

If you lack motivation, again, start by setting and achieving your reading goals. You'll read how entrepreneurs started in the same place as you and become rich by working hard during their free time.

Self-Dedication. You truly need self-dedication once you start your income streams. When you start, no one is going to rescue you. You have to [invest in the markets](#), start [a YouTube channel](#), create [an e-commerce business](#) by buying products, [write a book](#), [start a blog](#), or [rent a room](#).

These are all things that can seem complicated, and they all go against the grain of holding a job. You have to believe in yourself above all else. If you are scared to make a mistake, then continue to work a job.

On the path, you will have to make mistakes and learn from them. Your artistic work will be shit when you start. My writing sucked when I wrote my first blog posts. I had no idea what I was doing, just that I wanted to add value. You'll improve every single day, especially if you are reading.

[Losing Friends? You're Doing Something Right](#)

The book "[Dirt Rich](#)" talks about "**the dip**." After you start your income stream, things begin well. Then eventually, things almost disappear. Something happens, and you begin to question yourself. Most people give up during "the dip."

I reached that point several times, but I didn't give up since I had read about it. I believed in my books and writing and continued to persist. Now, I am in my top-earning month on Amazon, and my website is getting organic traffic from Google Search.

I still have so much work to do, but I am seeing the results of my dedication to myself. I believed that I could become a writer, and I have. Now, I need to prove that I can keep it up for the rest of my life. A tremendous challenge indeed.

[Life is Not a Game](#)

For your income stream, you must believe in yourself. Your product or business may suck, but that is a part of life. You will learn from every experience. However, your dedication to yourself and your mission will lead to long-term success.

Conclusion. I rambled on again today. I just love talking about income streams and the mindset behind them. Once you read enough books, you'll see how society stifled our creativity. We are all creative in some way, but employees don't need to be creative.

Finding our creativity is part of our passive income journey. If you take these core values to heart, you find your true purpose—and it's not working a job. I hope this helps you on your journey if only a little.



08 What's So Great About Being Independent?

It seems that everyone nowadays wants to be independent. No, I am not talking about financial independence; I am talking about living alone, climbing the corporate ladder, and screaming from the top, "I made it by myself!"



[What So Great About Being Independent?](#)

Ouch, what is the total price we pay when we go through life alone, without a soulmate or partner? This is the first generation (last 15-20 years) where the media glorifies the single businessman and the single businesswoman.

The idea from this article came after I watched a movie on Netflix titled "[Fatherhood](#)." Kevin Hart plays a single parent, and throughout the film, both of his mothers try to get him to move to his hometown so they can assist him. Nope, he chooses to remain far away from help and keeps stating his daughter and him are all alone. Garbage.

[How to Stay Motivated](#)

Somehow I get the impression that he feels it is a badge of honor to say he did it independently. But, what are the costs to his daughter growing up without female representation? The narrative from the media is that you are weak if you ask for help. Garbage.

I used to feel like only weak people asked for help—it's a poor people thing. The parents do not have a lot to offer, so they tell the children that they have to make it independently. Yep, I believed that for far too many years.

And guess what, I made it on my own. I bought my first car (at 18% interest) by myself and bought my first house (almost bankrupted us) by myself. What did I learn? That I could have done things better with help, mentorship, and guidance.

I changed my mind about weakness when I started reading about rich people. Rich people do not throw their children to the corporate wolves; poor people do. What is the cost of trying to grow yourself in America alone? Usually adverse effects on mental health.

You see, in America, we sell two narratives to the masses. However, only one of them is on TV. The other is in the shadows, but it peaks its head out when times get hard.

[Being Unique Sells](#)

Narrative #1 is that everyone can have it all by themselves. Hollywood shows that single mothers can be CEOs of their own business, work great hours, afford a full-time nanny, have a nice car, huge house, and have time to cook, clean, and date. She never seems stressed out or broke. The kids are all well adjusted, and nothing is out of place. In fact, the mother is also the head of the PTA. She doesn't need anyone to help her.

Narrative #2 is the underpinnings of mental health and medication. The news always tells you to seek mental help and remedies. When life gets hard, it is okay to take a mental health break. Never work a job that stresses you out or causes anxiety. You deserve to be happy at work and home, and anyone or anything that changes that needs to go away.

These two narratives are at odds with one another. It is challenging to be a CEO of your own business without feeling any stress. I have been in the US Marine Corps for 22 years, and I know a little about mental health and stress. I can tell you that what they show on TV and in Movies is very dangerous to susceptible minds.

[I Live Paycheck to Paycheck 3](#)

I mainly see media selling the independence narrative to women. If a woman wants to get married, they tell her she is weak and needy. I feel sorry for women who buy into this crap. To connect with others is why we exist. We are supposed to grow old together.

I have achieved much in my 22-year career, including reaching the top of the enlisted ladder. However, my experience with my wife and kids is the pinnacle of my achievements and the highlight of my life.

I started [dividend investing](#), [buying properties](#), [reading books](#), and [writing articles](#) to build a massive [sum of passive income](#). I need passive income to live the life I want to live with my wife and kids. I want to achieve financial independence so my wife, kids, [and grandkids](#) can spend as much time together as possible.

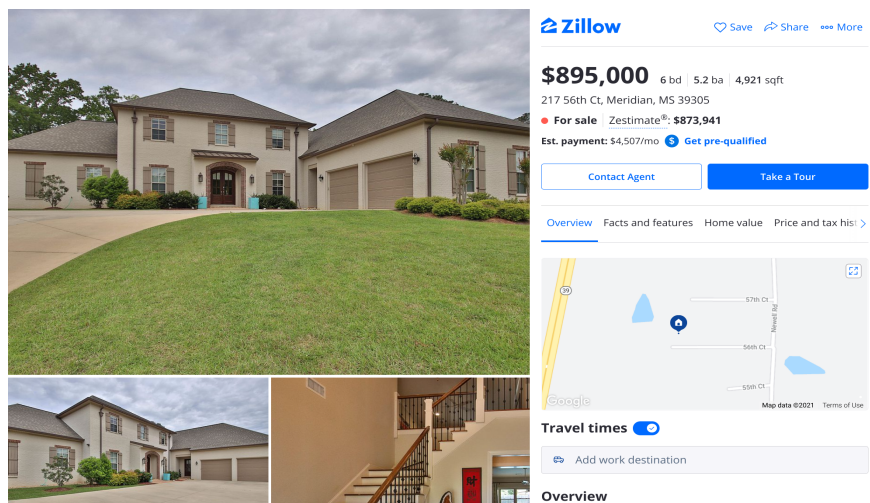
Back to the “Fatherhood” movie, Kevin Hart remains in his town because he thinks like a poor person. To me, after studying the creation of money, I would have left my town, rented my home, and moved in with my mothers. Then, I would start [a consulting business](#), a [YouTube channel](#) about being a single father, and other small businesses that [I could automate](#), like a [rental car business](#).

America has trained us to believe that our jobs are the end all be all in our lives. **Forget that nonsense.** We need strong family units. With a family team, we can achieve anything we want and keep our sanity. Why can't [adult children live with their parents?](#)

Let's convert the narrative into our favor and fight the corporations making large sums of cash from us living separate lives. Think about who wins in a divorce situation. The parents now need independent housing, toys, televisions, furniture, plane tickets, utilities, etc.

[Start Your Debt Payoff Journey](#)

Think about when a family of five all go their separate ways. The parents have a house, and the three kids each have their own homes. They travel for Christmas and buy individual cars. Then if the kids get divorced, we have even more homes and travel in the mix.



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Travel times
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Overview

What if the family of five built a ten-bedroom, ten-bathroom [home in a small city](#)? Look at this [beauty in Meridian, Mississippi](#). The cost, \$895,000, would buy you something tiny in California. If the parents and three kids lived here together, they would split the costs four ways. That is roughly \$1,200/month each.

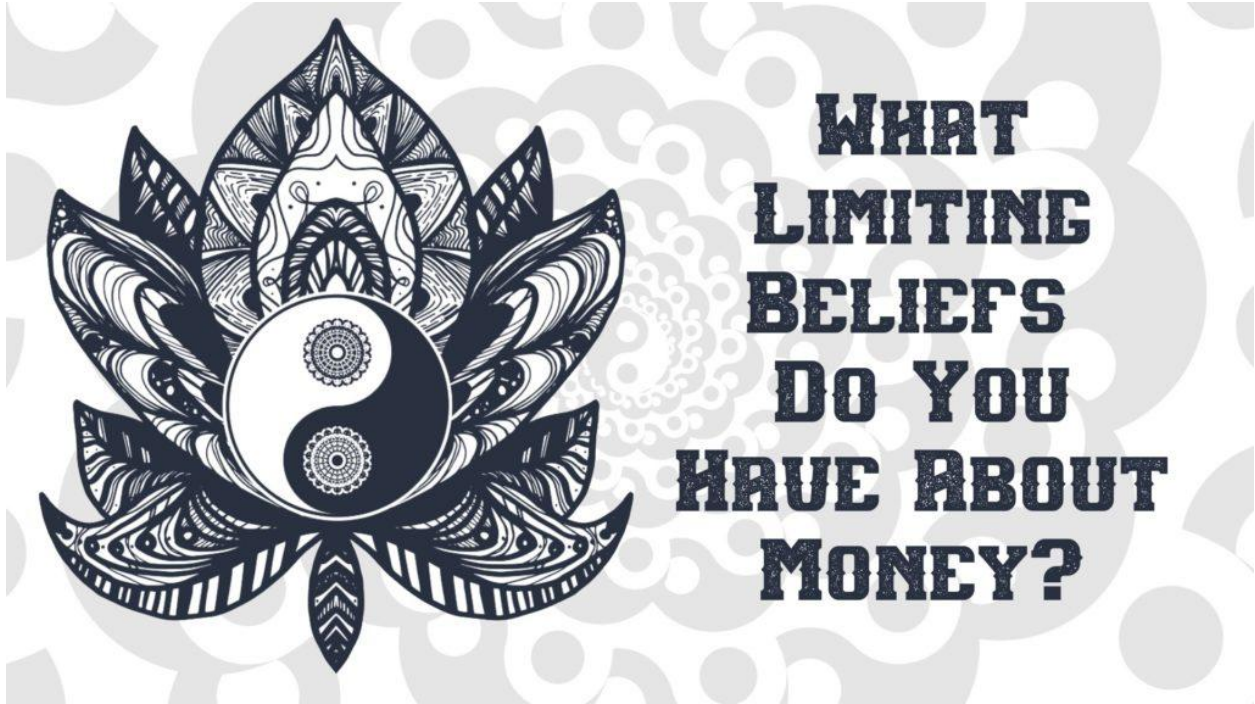
[Standard Employee by Day, Passive Income Hero by Night](#)

If that is how much we pay for housing, how much would we need to make as a family unit? We could all pretty live off \$50,000-\$60,000 a couple. No need to become the CEO—we would just need to focus on being happy and content. How's that for mental health?

Conclusion. I used to think like the movie and believe that a man has to do everything alone. No, a man needs to make thoughtful decisions that involve long-term success. His ego comes secondary to the mission. If one of his friends laughs at him for living at home, they are not his friends.

Similarly, if a woman's friend tells her not to get married or that marriage is for weak women, she needs to re-evaluate her friendships. Every happily married couple wants to assist others in finding this happiness.

There is nothing like being married, being happy, enjoying time together, and being rich. I have it all, and I want to get my kids and their spouses involved (when they grow past 14 and 10). I want to introduce my kids and kids-in-law to [Stress Freedom](#). There is no need for them to suffer the perils of the corporate world—when my wife and I have already been through that. Why pass stress and worry when we can pass wealth and happiness?



WHAT LIMITING BELIEFS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT MONEY?

09 What Limiting Beliefs Do You Have About Money?

Does how we feel about money play a role in our financial success? Yes, our beliefs, emotions, and experiences with money are a huge factor in how much money connects to us—and in which manner. Today, I want to get us mentally prepared to attract the money and life we deserve.



[Free 45-Page PDF Download](#)

What are limiting beliefs? In my own words, [limiting beliefs](#) are ideas, feelings, emotions, experiences, etc., that prevent us from moving forward in the direction **WE KNOW** we ought to be moving.

One of the central limiting beliefs is the [scarcity mindset](#). These beliefs tell us a million different things that stop us cold in our tracks on the path of life. For example, we know that we can help people learn the flute and want to start a YouTube channel, yet we tell ourselves that the market is already saturated with talented people.

[The Passive Income Grind](#)

Perfectionism is another limiting belief. In this belief, we fail to release a product, show our talents, or try something more complex because we want to “perfect” something first. Perfectionism may be the primary limiting belief that many people face.

Entrepreneurs have to get over perfectionism very fast. We (yes, I am an entrepreneur) have to release our products in the best state possible, given that moment in time. We will perfect our products over time and with feedback (or criticism) from our audience.

Our limiting beliefs about money are just as dangerous as those in other places in our lives. Money beliefs usually begin in our homes as we grow up. Our parents may be the number one deciding factor in how we feel about money.

I recently completed the book [“Effortless Money.”](#) The entire book explains how our feelings about money shape everything we do and what we receive in life. If you have been struggling with your thoughts about money, I highly recommend reading this book.

One of the ideas the author explains in the book is separating your bad luck from your money. Life tends to play tricks on us at its discretion. Many times we want to blame money for leaving us when we need it so bad. However, it’s not money’s fault; it is just life.

Understanding that things “just happen” in life is the first step in building a better relationship with money. Money wants us to be happy and have nice things. However, if we always attack it, it won’t want to come around anymore.

[Welcome to Stress Freedom](#)

You may laugh at how I am talking about money, but when your views about money change to being positive, good things start to happen much more often. About eight months ago, I wrote about how to [get “lucky” with money.](#)

That article explained that having the education to see opportunities and taking action will make you feel “lucky” with money. Let’s take a look at an example of how education and effort can lead to luck with money.

In our scenario, we follow the stock market every day. Part of our daily investing routine is to check various interest rates such as mortgage rates, the Federal Reserve rates, and the 10-Year Treasury.

[Start Your Debt Payoff Journey](#)

As I wrote yesterday in [“Real Estate is a Mindset \(Intermediate\), \(free pdf\),”](#) performing tasks as the big-time investors do will lead to similar results as them. We know that mortgage rates

across the board are 3%. However, in a random ad, we see that a new bank is offering mortgage rates at 2%.

We usually wouldn't act on this opportunity because it seems shady, so we do a little due diligence. The bank is new and is trying to gain market share—meaning they are willing to undercut the competition.

We jump on this mortgage rate and perform a cash-out refinance to the tune of gaining \$50,000 in our pockets and still have a mortgage lower than our current payment. By reading Military Family Investing, we know [how to invest our \\$50,000](#) into a dividend portfolio and earn \$250/month for the rest of our lives. We just got lucky with money!

[JOMO: The Joy of Missing Out](#)

However, we actually fought back multiple limiting beliefs in this scenario.

- 1) We read articles and news relating to investing, meaning we consider ourselves capable of understanding what the big boys understand.
- 2) We thought the ad was shady, but we fought our negative viewpoint and did our due diligence.
- 3) We performed a cash-out refinance instead of just trying to lower our monthly payment. That takes confidence in ourselves.
- 4) We invested the money in the stock market ourselves. We did not believe that someone else was more capable of handling our money than us.

Each of these limiting beliefs could have held us back from achieving this impressive feat. To have a \$50,000 dividend portfolio is a huge accomplishment. The first step to stopping limiting beliefs is understanding when they play a role in our decision-making.

The book "[Think and Grow Rich](#)" was first released in 1937, and people still read it today. This book lays out the groundwork to start changing our views about money. The book tells us to write down our money goals and read out loud multiple times a day. We are to dream of achieving the goals we set into motion.

[Good Debt vs. Bad Debt](#)

Do I believe in all this "magic?" Umm, yes, yes I do. I believe because it works. It has worked in my life. One of my favorite quotes is, "**To have more, you need to become more.**" So if we write down that we want to have \$1 million in 10 years, the person who can achieve that is vastly different from the person who wrote the goal down.

In one of Robert Kiyosaki's books, I believe "[Retire Young. Retire Rich.](#)" he goes to the top of a mountain with his wife and a friend. They are all broke but make a plan to retire in 10 years on

passive income. In far less than ten years, he and his wife retire with \$10,000/month of passive income.

One of my favorite quotes of his is, “**I needed to retire to focus on becoming rich.**” He did not know how to achieve his passive income goal before making it; he just had to work hard and make every opportunity count.

There are too many limiting beliefs about money to go over today, but here are a few and some remarks from me.

- 1) “Rich people are bad.” How can you become wealthy if you think rich people are evil?
- 2) “Only college people get good jobs.” Umm, electricians and plumbers are highly in demand.
- 3) “I never have enough money.” Start budgeting and living below your means. Read my article “[4 Steps to Become Rich.](#)”
- 4) “The government will take care of me.” They will until they won’t.
- 5) “I cannot learn to invest my own money.” Learning to invest just takes a little effort.
- 6) “I don’t get paid enough.” We get paid for the value we create. Create more value, see more money.

I can go on and on. Don’t let money-limiting beliefs hold you back from the life you want to live. I know that I will need at least [\\$20,000/month in passive income](#) when I retire. I am putting in the hard work here, even when I suffer some setbacks.

[How Do You Define Being Rich?](#)

Recently, Facebook deleted my private account, private group, and public page in one fell swoop. Luckily, I got everything back online, but it showed me not to depend on these corporations. Then yesterday, Amazon deleted my Amazon associates account that pertains to affiliate marketing. They said my content was not original. Interesting.

With these situations top of mind, I have decided to move my book business to my website. I will try to release 4-5 pdf books for free every week. **I do not know how I will monetize this course of action, but I know I am trying to add a tremendous amount of value to my audience.**

So please share my content and get the word out. It will be a considerable undertaking to produce this many pdfs books with cover art, articles, and artwork. But that is what adding value means. I foresee people downloading a pdf or two and reading at work or on their lunch break.

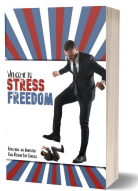
I am not going to let these corporations hold me back from providing value and growing my business. I know this way may take 2-3 years longer than going the Amazon route, but the rewards will be far superior in the end. Thanks for reading and being part of my growing

audience. Download as many pdfs as you can fit on your hard drive, and [bookmark the page here](#) always to see the latest content. Enjoy and Share!



10 Welcome to Stress Freedom

Someone should do a study on the effects of stress on the body and the mind. Well, I am sure that it already exists somewhere, but I can tell you from my experiences that stress sucks. The only way to beat stress is to overcome it.



[Welcome to Stress Freedom](#)

Over the last couple of years, I have become a massive proponent of parents helping their kids overcome stress throughout their lifetimes. Somewhere, somehow, parenting has turned into birth through the eighteen-year ordeal.

Parents will try to be the best mentors on Earth between one and eighteen to their children. They take them to soccer, help them with homework, and serve as their best friend.

[Keep the Job, Quit the Mindset](#)

Once the children go to college, then parents begin to focus on their retirement and life with an empty nest. The better the child does in school and life, the less support their parents will give them. “He is doing so amazing in life” is the common theme.

Now, this is where the stress comes in for the child. He is now 22-35 years old, and everyone expects him (or her) to have everything figured out. The amount of sheer responsibility on his shoulders is enormous, and many young people break under the weight.

Let’s take a look at the average young person and the responsibilities that they have:

- 1) **Housing.** No matter if they are buying and renting, housing is super expensive. Moreover, it is rising at an astronomical rate.
- 2) **Spouse.** We want our kids to have kids early, meaning for them to get married beforehand.
- 3) **Kids.** Children are costly and stressful.
- 4) **Jobs.** Corporations and governments no longer care about your child’s livelihood. They are a commodity to use and abuse.
- 5) **Life debt.** Just living an American [life can be stressful](#). Cars, utilities, schools, etc., all lead to a high cost of living.
- 6) **Student debt.** On top of a life debt, they are carrying over debt from school. School debt prevents them from saving early on in life.
- 7) **Retirement.** Now, with all this going on, they are also in charge of their retirement plan. “Save while you are young!” they say. How?

I have been there in my [late 20s](#) and [early 30s](#). The thing is, you don’t feel the stress that is constantly weighing on you because it becomes routine. You have so many things going on that it just seems like the day-to-day grind that everyone is going through.

[It Feels Good to Be In Control of Your Finances](#)

But you do feel it when things go wrong—when the car breaks, appliances fail to work, or your child needs to come home from daycare. All of a sudden, the mountain of stress starts to grow taller.

But not everyone at this age feels this stress. Nope, a subset of people can navigate through life with a different form of stress, but it’s not life stress. Their state of stress comes from making the right choices and building a future life through investments. Yes, they are rich people.

I am not even talking about big-time millionaires and billionaires; I’m talking about people who have discovered [passive income](#). Passive income is the key to relieving your entire cycle of life stress and moving to something I call “investment stress.”

[Are Limiting Beliefs Keeping You From Greatness?](#)

Investment stress is something that most people want to avoid because it involves knowledge and working with people. You see, to become rich, you have to add value to someone else's life. You have to understand their issues and help solve problems at a profit—[this defines an entrepreneur](#).

When we talk about cryptocurrencies, retirement planning, investing, real estate, and business, 95% of people want to avoid these topics. Yes, more young people than ever are investing in the stock market, but the majority are using it as some form of gambling.

Investment stress consists of having tenants, watching the stock market ebb and flow, navigating through downturns, starting a business, dealing with clients, and tracking interest rates. Those are just the tip of the iceberg; however, the average person doesn't want to deal with these "headaches."

As you can see, there are clearly two types of stress that exist, and you have a choice of which one to follow. You have "**life stress**," which comes from the lack of money, and you have "**investment stress**," which you form during the creation of money.

A funny thing happens, the more investment stress you achieve, the less life stress you feel. After a while, say 2-4 years, investment stress isn't anxiety; it is more of a mission or goal than a daily stress event.

[Minimalism: 7 Ways it Leads to Financial Freedom](#)

Once you cross over into becoming an investor ([especially an inside investor](#)), you learn how to create money. Making money is the difference between life stress and investment stress and the reason why rich people's lives seem so much more fluid than ordinary people's.

Let's look at a small example of money creation and how the two sides handle the situation. We will say that a couple needs a new computer to work on their master's degree after hours. It needs to be a specific type, and it costs \$1,500.

Mr. Life Stress doesn't have any cash reserves. He can't ask for a raise at work because he just changed jobs recently. He makes decent money, but daycare and private school eat into his cash flow. He decides that putting the laptop on his credit card is his only option.

Mr. Investment Stress welcomes the challenge to create \$1,500. He knows that \$1,500 is roughly two months of Airbnb for his converted garage. Since he has a blog, he knows that the business can buy the laptop and review it. He can then set up affiliate links to make passive income from the purchase over a couple of years. He also needs to conduct a "[wash sale](#)" on some of his capital gains in the stock market; this would be a good time to do that.

Mr. Investment Stress decides to have his blog business buy the laptop and conduct a review. It can be entirely written off on [business taxes](#), and he can earn more [passive income](#) from affiliate sales. Not only did he not have to pay for it from his wallet, but he will also turn a profit from buying the laptop.

[What Would Your Life Look Like Without a Paycheck?](#)

Now, which of the two would you rather want to be? When you fully convert to investment stress, life stress seems to fade away magically. **I call this Stress Freedom.**

I define stress freedom as having multiple choices to solve a situation, giving you maximum flexibility. I will refine this definition as I build out this term. In our example, Mr. Life Stress didn't have many options; he just had a fallback plan, which was his credit card.

As we transition our children into the real world, we leave them with a ton of life stress and no tools to solve issues. We tell them to save for emergencies; that's the best plan. But [saving is vastly](#) different from creating money.

Mr. Investment Stress has a high yield savings account, just like Mr. Life Stress. However, Mr. Investment Stress wants to create money. It is a challenge not to use his savings account. He will find a way to turn almost any situation into a net positive gain in his life. **Investment Stress is a personal challenge to create money.**

If I needed \$10,000 to repair a broken pipe in my home, I would use either savings, a loan, or a credit card to get the job done quickly. However, I will then find a way to create \$10,000. If that means opening my rental car business, adding RV hookups to our home and renting the space, or renting storage space, there are ALWAYS ways to create money.

[Millennials, Homeownership, and Kids](#)

As parents, we are doing a HUGE disservice to our children when we don't learn about investing in retirement planning, investments, cryptocurrencies, real estate, and business. We are leaving them with the burden of life stress.

Yes, learning to invest can be stressful upfront, but you will learn how to create money in the long run. You can download all of your investing experience into your children so they too can ["create money."](#)

My wife and I have converted our life stress to investment stress. We now look for challenges when money situations arise. We are proactive and not reactionary. We can solve issues with cash flow and the creation of money.

Ask yourself, if you needed to create an income stream of \$50/month, how would you do it? Could you go to your boss and ask for a \$0.50/hour raise? Could you bake and sell cakes on the weekend or host a coffee event every month?

[From -\\$77,000 to +\\$150,000 in 22 Months](#)

I'd gather that most people couldn't come up with a way to create a \$50/month income stream without some form of earned income. And if you can't do it, your child probably can't do it. Most people will drive Uber or deliver pizza. That's not the path for long-term success.

We have a roommate with an old car. I would ask him if we wanted to car share in the evenings. Since we have two vehicles and I hardly use my car at night, it wouldn't cause any issues. I could charge him \$100/month plus gas. I would have added value to his life—he gets to drive a newer model car plus save mileage on his car—and created a nice income stream for myself.

Being able to create money is a learned trait. You have to read and study pure entrepreneurs to think this way. I have [read 55 books](#) in less than a year, and I continue to read every day to keep fresh ideas flowing into my head.

I am very passionate about teaching our kids to create pure money. It is like wearing a set of money sunglasses. Most people cannot see what you see; they only know jobs, resumes, and vacation time. Those aren't the terms to leading a fulfilling life and achieving stress freedom.

In part two, "Achieve Stress Freedom," I will present a step-by-step guide to adjusting your mind to envision a world of money. I already wrote a book on becoming wealthy called "[4 Steps to Becoming Rich \(book\)](#)" but this is about seeing what others don't see. Then, being able to show your kids the same thing. Sort of like the Matrix, but better. Enjoy and Happy Investing.



11 When Life Gives You Lemons... Make Passive Income Lemonade

I started from nothing. I remember working at McDonald's during high school for \$4.25/hour and being happy with my paychecks. My parents raised me to have a strong sense of core values and discipline. However, that's all I left the house with when I joined the Marines in 1999.



Passive Income Lemonade

I met my wife one day in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. She spoke no English, only Russian. She also came from nothing. Again, her parents give her a strong sense of core values, hard work, and teamwork.

We became a team in 2006 when we were married in Helsinki, Finland. Since then, we have become inseparable. Don't get me wrong, the Marine Corps has put miles of distance between us for many years at times, but we have never been apart.

I remember one day in Afghanistan around 2010. It was a crisp, clear night in December, and the base I was on was relatively isolated. I could see the stars for miles because there was no

cloud layer. I remember looking up and thinking that at least one person in the world is also looking up and thinking of me. That's when I knew the purpose of being married.



This is a picture of Kristina and me in 2020, right before I left for a two-year tour in Japan. Kris and I have been through a lot throughout our 15-year marriage. All marriages have better days than others, but we don't feel that anything has been overly burdensome.

When we were younger, it was harder for us to use our words. We are not taught how to be good husbands and wives, so there is always a steep learning curve. But we made it with two kids, and now it's time to get rich.

Life threw us lemons. We didn't start with any money in life. Luckily, our parents made us good people with good values and above-average work ethics. As far as cash and assets, that is a big fat zero. So we made **passive income lemonade!**

Now I am 40, and Kris is 37 (you didn't hear that from me), and we have more money than we know what to do with. We avoided the [middle-class trap](#) of bigger homes, cars, and vacations.

We will also avoid the other income trap of resting on our laurels. We are making a ton of cash flow, \$17,000/month versus \$4,000/month expenses, but we aren't going to stop searching for new income streams.

You see, that is what the rich do to increase their income; they keep adding assets to their portfolio. They do not go and find another job, work more hours, or beg their boss for a pay raise. They search for assets they can build, create, or obtain, and they add them to their list of assets that produce income.

They do this for their entire lives. They don't stop when they think they have enough money. They don't consider it greedy to keep adding assets to their portfolio. I'll let you know something. There are enough resources, money, time, and assets for everyone to become wealthy.

Some people will have more than others, but everyone could live a good life. As you gain more and more assets, you do not mind spending money on other people using their minds to create new experiences or businesses.

For instance, we have three acres of grassland at our house in Florida. I could cut it myself or pay \$100/month to have someone else do it. I will pay someone to cut it for two reasons. A) I hate cutting grass B) I have something more valuable I can do with my time.

I could keep my \$100 and cut the grass, or I could use the 4-5 hours to publish a book that could make me \$1000+ over its lifetime. Most rich people use this equation to decide what is worth spending their time or money on. They are making passive income lemonade.

No back to the person cutting my grass. They can continue to keep cutting grass all their lives or decide to make the same choices that the rich person made. At some point, they can hire an assistant and have them cut the grass. The assistant could make \$70, and the owner would take \$30. The owner is now free to find more business; it is called [business automation](#) via management.

The only person holding you back from being wealthy is you. Everyone brings something unique to the table, everyone. I am here writing books and articles every day, but I was never a creative. I decided that I wanted to earn [passive income from royalties](#), so that is what I did.

I [started a blog](#), [read 50 books](#), including books on [writing](#), [blogging](#), [advertising](#), and [design](#). And I started writing each and every day. It takes 10,000 hours to become a master at something, and I am about 600-800 hours in. So I have a few **YEARS** before I am where I need to be. I look forward to the challenge.

But here's the truth, 97% of people won't do what I did. That is to decide to better themselves and go after their goal. [Wealth is a mindset](#), and most people (97%) do not have the proper vision to obtain great wealth.

The good part of growing up poor is you have a unique frame of reference. When I receive dividends, royalties, and rents ([mailbox money](#)), I still consider it free money. I can still remember those days working my butt off at McDonald's, earning a low wage, but being happy.

Now, I am bringing in new money every day. **Every. Single. Day.** Each day a different lump sum is earned from my books, dividends, rents, or cryptocurrencies. My wife said that a man is so much more satisfied with life when he has his finances together. I can second that.

We are rich now. We started from the bottom. My mom bought us our first mattress in 2006, when Kris arrived in America, young and pregnant. Now, we have three homes, a dividend portfolio almost at \$175,000, and a young book business.

[Do I Need Lots of Money to Start Investing?](#)

We still have a lot to go. Our job is to ensure our kids get off to a great start, learn about passive income, become homeowners, and find great spouses. I have never been more content in my life. There is nothing for Kris and me to argue about; we are rich. You'll be surprised at how little you argue about when money isn't an issue.

So, what lemons did life give you? Did you grow up poor, have some kind of childhood trauma, lack education, crappy job or spouse, etc.? Yes, we all have something that **COULD** hold us back. The best revenge is living a good life.

Once you decide to make passive income lemonade, I have lots of resources for you. I have over 450 articles on my website. Luckily I have been gathering my pieces and making books along the way. Blogs are notorious for hiding information along the way.



Start here with “[The Well Rounded Millionaire \(book\)](#).” Inside, you will find ways to improve your mindset and then start with retirement planning, stock market investing, cryptocurrencies, real estate, and business.

If you are reading this, you are well on your way to making passive income lemonade. And boy, is it the best drink that I have ever had. Good Luck!

EDUCATION MINDSET

A CHILD'S' FIRST BOOK ON PASSIVE INCOME



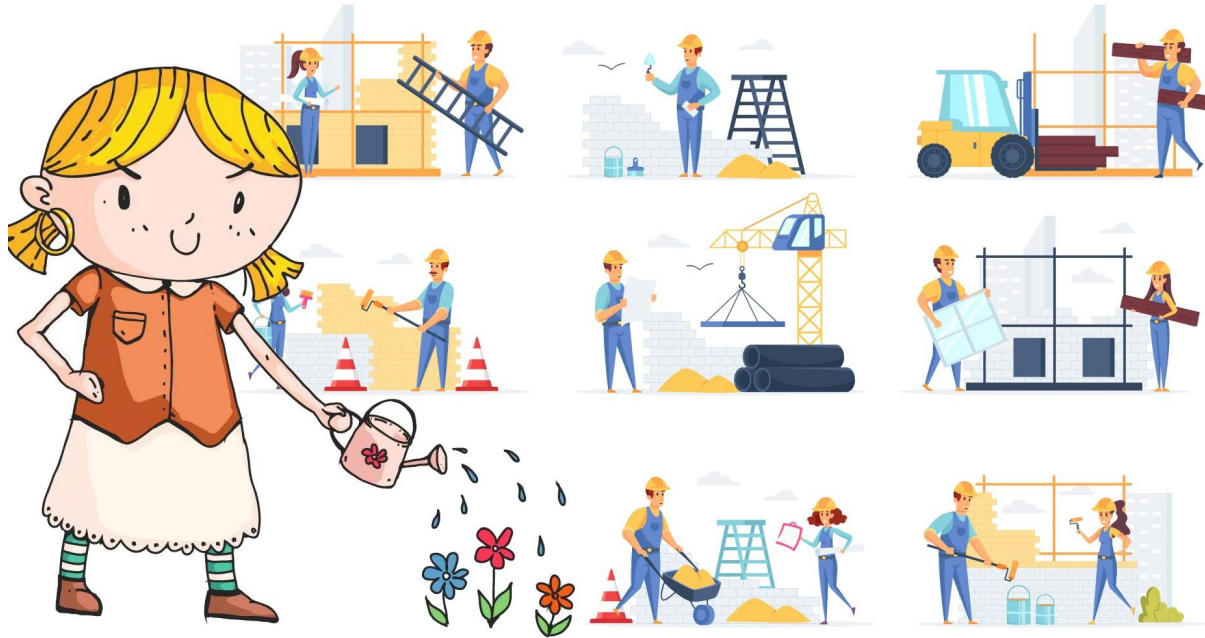
12 A Child's First Book on Passive Income



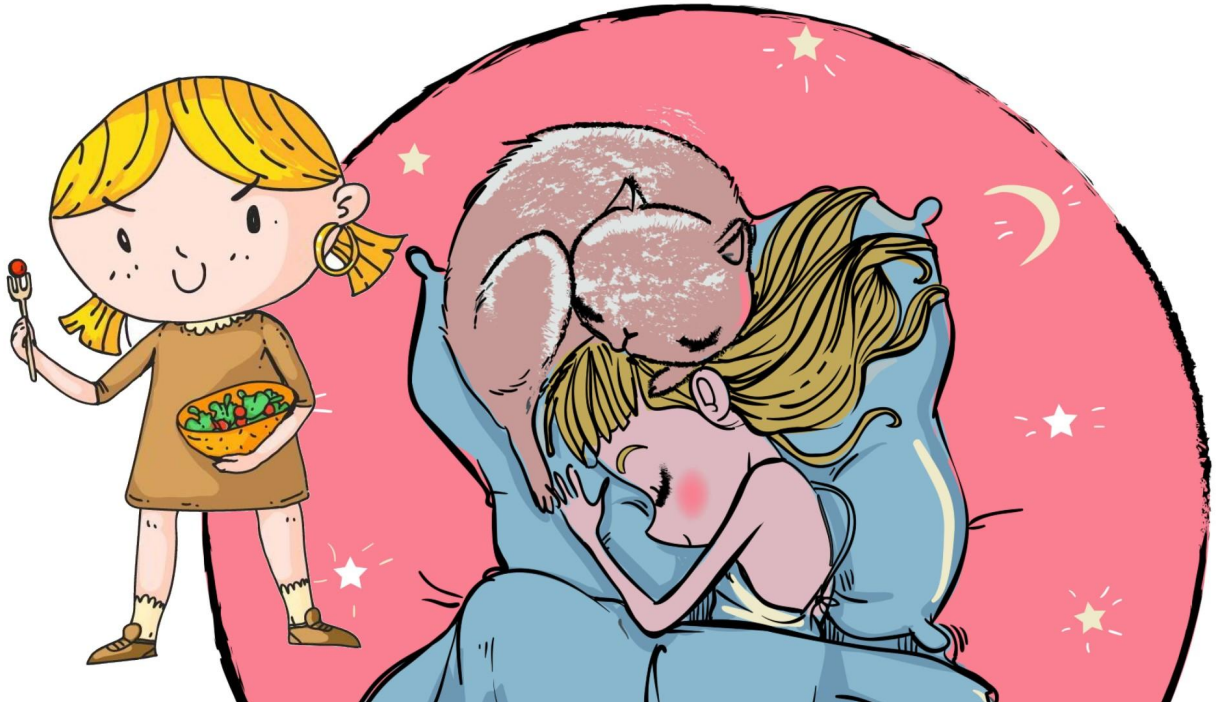
1. When we leave our parent's house, we start alone.



A Child's First Book on Passive Income



2. We get a job to pay for our expenses.



3. When we don't work, we don't get paid.



4. We work, and work, and work.



5. We become tired of working for money.



6. If only we had friends to help us pay our expenses.



7. If we had friends helping us, we would be able to relax more often.



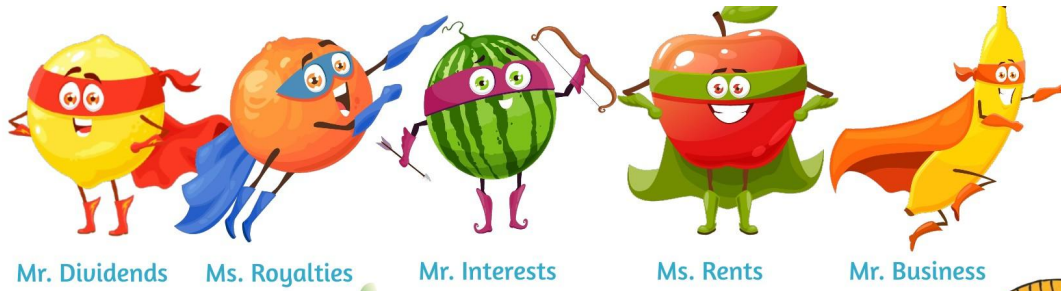
8. We start reading books on how to make friends.



9. We learn that five friends can help us with our money.



10. We need to find our friends in various locations.



11. The friends are Mr. Dividends, Ms. Royalties, Mr. Interests, Ms. Rents, and Mr. Business



12. We find Mr. Dividends on the Stock Market.



13. We find Ms. Royalties by selling books, videos, and artwork.



14. We find Mr. Interests when dealing with Cryptocurrencies.



15. We find Ms. Rents when we own houses and apartments.



16. We find Mr. Business when we start a business and let others run it for us.



17. The deeper friendships we form with our friends, the more they help us with our expenses.



18. Eventually, our friends give us so much money that we can stop working.



19. At this point, we can enjoy our lives with our friends and new friends and family.



20. By making our friends at a young age, we are now financially independent.



13 Become a Lifelong Learner. Become Rich.

It is a shame that school does such a poor job at teaching us how to learn. By the time we finish school, we decide that learning is not an essential part of our daily routine. We may continue to grind to get a higher degree, but money is the reasoning behind that.



[Become a Life-Long Learner](#)

As a provider, I fell into this camp as well. I'll be honest, I have never taken a college course in my life. I joined the military after high school in 1999 and haven't looked back. However, I make a decent wage in the military (\$140,000/year), so I have used the [military as my wealth generator](#).

Even making a large sum of money at my earned income job wasn't enough money for my wife and me to do what we needed to do. My wife is from a country named Turkmenistan, and if we stood any chance of seeing her family, we needed to make more money.

[Being Unique Sells](#)

Once we decided to expand our financial options, our next step was to learn what the heck to do. That was two years ago, and we have never stopped the learning process since then.

You see, learning is the only way to become wealthy—learning is the only way to stay rich. Every day the world of finance changes, and if you aren't aware of the changes, you can get life behind. As we learn, we tend to feel that we get ["lucky" with money](#). But, luck is the result of education + opportunity + action.

Without education, the opportunity never arises. But does this mean that we have to get ten masters' degrees to be successful in life? Sure, if that is what you choose to study. I, on the other hand, want to study cold hard cash.

I want to learn how to [make money while I sleep](#). If you are the provider in your household, ask yourself one question. Am I making money while I sleep? No, I am not talking about having a salary. I am talking about [passive income](#).

Every day you should be more prosperous than the day before. I talked on the phone with my wife the other day, and someone read my entire 1,250-page book, "[The Biggest Book on Passive Income Ever!](#)" One reader produced \$8 in book royalties, and I told my wife we made \$8 while we spoke on the phone. That is the [magic of passive income](#).

[\\$1,000 Dividend Shopping Spree](#)

But I can't just learn about money; I need to learn how to learn. The book "[Limitless](#)" teaches about improving hard skills such as memorization, speed reading, and critical thinking. By enhancing our learning process, we can absorb and retain more information. More information equates to more money.

Why are learning, knowledge, education, and information retention so important? Because if you cannot combine multiple data points and form your own conclusion, you will always be reactionary. You want to put yourself in a position to be [an investing insider](#), not on the outside.

For example, let's say the Federal Reserve came out tomorrow and raised the Federal Reserve rate to 5%; what would you do with this information? First off, why did they do it? What does it mean for interest rates, bonds, REITs, stocks, growth stocks, dividend stocks, savings accounts, mortgage rates, rents, cryptocurrencies, business lending, etc.?

If you can't answer these questions, how do you expect to get rich? Robert Kiyosaki, my favorite author, tells us in "[Rich Dad's Guide to Investing](#)" that actual investors make money in all situations. When the market is down, they leverage information and knowledge to produce wealth; they do the same when the market is up.

[Start Your Debt Payoff Journey](#)

That is why we must take a lifelong approach to learning. My favorite Robert Kiyosaki book is "[Unfair Advantage](#)" where he gives in-depth thoughts on knowledge, debt, taxes, risk, and compensation. Reading this book allows me to absorb a lifetime of his experience and leverage it in my life. Imagine if you read 3-4 books a month?

The more I read, the more money I make. The key is connecting education, training, information, and leverage to make predictions and take action that will make you rich. Let's look at an example.

I have an Amazon book publishing business, where [I publish ebooks almost daily](#). I use my **education** on consumer habits to know that Black Friday to New Year's is the biggest spending time of the year. I have **training** on how to write, design, and publish books. All my current **information** points to cryptocurrencies being the hot topic going into the New Year. I can **leverage** my book-making business because I am an insider, which means I control time and money.

Using all of these things together, I can create a book called "Have a Merry Crypto Christmas." (Thanks for the idea, by the way.) Can you see how all these things come into play together? I wouldn't be able to write about cryptocurrencies if I wasn't reading about them. In fact, I just finished a new book on crypto called "[How to DeFi -Beginner.](#)"

[Accumulate Your First \\$100,000](#)

Do you start to see how the rich stay ahead of everyone else? They use trends and information to make predictions on where (and how) to make money. They can walk the streets of a downtown city and understand that the city is missing an Italian restaurant. They don't just start an Italian restaurant because they want to. They see that there is a "gap" in the customer choices. They aim to solve other people's problems at a profit.

How do you become a lifelong learner? Easy, you start reading every single day. No, not romance and mysteries. Well, you can read those; however, you need to read wealth books first. I focus on financial mindset, retirement planning, investing, cryptocurrencies, real estate, and business.

I know it is tough to build a habit of reading, maybe the most challenging thing you can do in life. School made us dislike reading and learning because there was always a right and wrong answer. However, in the real world, there is no right and wrong answer.

There is only rich and poor—which one do you want to be? My wife and I have zero debt, three houses, a \$180,000 dividend portfolio, and a growing library of income-producing books. We are just getting started; I turned 40 years old five months ago.

[Can You Achieve Work-Life Balance?](#)

I want to be rich with passive income! Not because I want a fancy car or to take fancy vacations. No, because you need money to buy your time and your freedom. If I want to see my kids and grandkids throughout their lifetimes, we, as a family unit, need the resources to make that happen.

Work has robbed us of too much of our time together as it stands. Why would I knowingly sign up my kids and grandkids to work 40-50 hours a week for 40 years with some nameless, faceless corporation? Passive income is the key to keeping strong family bonds and connections.

And learning is the key to passive income. I wrote a couple of articles on reading “[The Succeeding in Reading \(book\)](#)” and “[54 Takeaways from 54 Books](#).” Learning is now a vital part of my life, and it will be until I pass away. As much as I love Netflix, Nintendo Switch, and drinking beer, the most important thing is ensuring my family has the means to survive without working a job. That is my role as a provider and lifelong learner.



14 Don't Let School Interfere with Your Education

We have placed too much emphasis of our education on going to college and getting multiple degrees. We are now telling ourselves that someone will show us how to make money and build our fortunes. Sadly, your degree is not going to help you get rich. It may get you a high-paying job, however. So what's the difference?

First, let's start with an example of something you won't learn in school—how to use debt, taxes, and other people's money. I recently conducted a cash-out refinance on my first house that is in

Arizona. I extracted \$80,000 from the house, completely tax-free. My house payment went from \$1,500 to \$1,700.

Most people would be scared of the rise in their mortgage, but not me. I then put the house up for rent using a local property manager. I asked for \$2,000/month, enough to cover our new mortgage and the property manager. The military base out in Arizona contacted the property manager and asked if they could rent the home for some inbound contractors. They are willing to pay \$2,500/month plus the property management fee (\$1,250). My property manager accepted, happily.

Now let's break this down. I used low interest rates to refinance my home, extracting \$80,000 and investing it in the stock market. I am now receiving a fresh \$600/month increase in revenue for the same property, plus I receive the dividends from the \$80,000 investment.

If you could pull off a move like this every year, you would become rich in a brief time. How do actions like this make you rich? Ask yourself, how long would it take you to add \$10,000/annual pay increase or roughly \$800/month? And if you could add that amount, who would be in charge of signing off on your pay raise.

You see, my increase in income is all of my own volition. My wife and I talked and decided to refinance the house and then put it up for rent. Was it risky to take out \$80,000 from the home and increase the monthly mortgage? Not to me. For me, it is riskier to have a lot of unused equity in your home. Unrealized gains can be taken from you at any moment in the event of a market crash. The old saying comes back, "Use it or lose it!"

Your college education will not teach you how to use leverage, debt, taxes, or other people's money. I learned this mindset and these tactics from reading Robert Kiyosaki's books, in this case, "[Unfair Advantage](#)."

The more books I read, the more my view of the world changes and shifts. I also have children, two boys, that I have to help navigate through this new world. My oldest will attend high school next year, and I have learned one thing through his schooling—school doesn't teach critical thinking.

Critical thinking is the art of making complex decisions that consider first, second, and third-order effects. That is purely my definition, but I know it to be true in my own life. I'll be very clear; I have zero college to my name, not a single class. Yet, I can make tough financial decisions all day long. I have given myself the financial education to build an empire, all without college.

But I do not rest on my laurels; I keep learning every day. The book "[Limitless](#)" explains that we need to be lifelong learners, constantly challenging our brains to perform at a higher level. I tend to agree with these beliefs. The harder I push my brain, the richer I become.

Why do we go to college and get our Bachelor's and Master's degrees? To get a high-paying job, correct? Most of our jobs are not pushing our brains to the limit. The exact opposite, in reality.

You see, as we work our jobs, we are basically white-collar factory workers. We think that we have these fantastic jobs where we are climbing the ladder and learning new things. Not! Most of our jobs come down to the same thing: checking emails, attending meetings, and handling customers.

You will not realize how much your job constrains your thinking until you start a business. When you have your own business, there is no fat on the bone. There is no time to have a two-hour meeting with yourself or task out someone who will fail. Your time is invaluable, and you don't want to waste it—being efficient is a top priority.

When I started my blog and book publishing, I realized I needed to learn how to write more clearly. So, I read the book "[On Writing Well](#)." I had no idea how to run a blog until I read "[How to Blog for Profit](#)." The same for advertising "[Ca\\$hvertising](#)" and design "[The Non-Designer's Design Book](#)."

To run a successful business, I had to upgrade the software in my brain by reading and writing. I had to cut through all the red tape and become better at my business, with no one else to blame.

We will wait for the I.T. department to upgrade to the latest version of software at our jobs. Then it will have bugs, and our email will be down. We will sit by the water cooler and waste time and laugh. We are not being paid to be productive; we are being paid to be in the building.

It's funny because the book "[Sold](#)" is about starting a career as a real estate agent. The author states that many people come into the real estate field with the same water cooler mentality. They think they are being paid by the hour, yet they are being paid for each closing. They fail at their careers in real estate.

But is it their fault that they don't understand the dynamics of productivity and time? Yes and no. Our children are being taught to be employees and think like employees. Our kids are not being taught how to think critically at all—about anything.

When we were young (in the 80s and 90s), we would play football in the street. We would pick up and play with kids from the neighborhood. We created the rules—the street lights were the boundaries, the touchdown areas, and how the plays would end.

We were actually learning critical thinking, sportsmanship, competition, and teamwork. These were crucial times for our development and growth, both mentality and physically. We looked at each other and could tell who was in shape or not. We didn't want to embarrass ourselves by being slow.

Today, kids are driven to football by their parents. The parents wait there and pretend their kid is going to be a football star. The coaches decide all the rules of the land, with no input for the kids. They act like there is a competition at the games, but there are no winners and losers. We teach our children that there are no winners and losers; everyone is happy, all the time.

Well, if you haven't heard it before, I'll be the one to tell you in bold print: **Life is full of winners and losers, mostly losers.** The world needs you to be an employee, not an employer. It is far easier to control people who don't think for themselves.

If you want to change your career, you will need to go back to college. Pay more money to get more degrees and certifications. Sit at an interview with some chomp who is 15 years younger than you as the interviewer reads your resume. Then they will tell you that you aren't qualified.

Do you know why he can tell you that? Because there are a thousand more like you down the hallway. This chomp can treat you any way he can because you believe that the only way to earn money is through him and his job. You have a lot to learn.

Look at my example of making \$800/month in about two months. If I can teach my son to be comfortable with leverage, debt, business, real estate, etc., who will be better off? Would my son benefit more from going to a college or learning the true principles of building wealth?

Yes, you are correct; if my son has no assets, he will need to get a job. There is no doubt about that. Most of us didn't have a handful of stocks, bonds, and rental properties to start our life with. But my son will have these things, so which direction will I point him?

Will I send him to the workforce to be a nameless, faceless soul begging for a job, fearful of the future? Or will I teach him how to make real money? I can teach him topics such as starting a business, building an audience, using leverage and other people's money, and adding value as an entrepreneur?

In the end, that is true education. I have nothing against college but understand what it is for—to make you a better employee. There is nothing wrong with that; just know what you are paying for when you attend.

Your self-education can teach you to print your own money. After reading 48 books and writing book reports on each, I have learned how to print money from thin air. I can create a \$1,000/month income stream over the next six months. And not by working a job, but by leveraging my self-education.

If you can create a \$1,000/month income stream in six months, then this article wasn't for you. If you can't, then you need to create yourself some homework and then complete it. You have a lot to learn about creating genuine wealth—hint; it is not in a classroom.

An excellent place to start would be “[20 Books that Will Make You Rich](#)” and “[20 \(more\) Books that will Make You Rich.](#)” I usually give my two recommendations, but pick a book that looks interesting to you. They have all helped my life progression and self-education. They are all great places to start your journey. **Remember, there is no problem with being an employee until you discover how to become rich.** Good Luck!



15 H.E.N.R.Y. High Earner Not Rich Yet

Money seems to be in abundance. Everywhere I look, store shelves are empty, people are driving new cars, and I see RVs and boats littering the road. So, is everyone rich? Apparently, there is a lot of money flowing through people’s hands and wallets.



[Free 45-Page PDF Download \(\\$2.99 Value\)](#)

Why, then, do I keep hearing that most Americans will not have enough money to retire? I read that [the average American](#) is lucky to have \$200,000 in retirement savings by age 65. Where the heck is all the money going?

There is a subset of high earners who are not rich. In fact, many of them live [paycheck-to-paycheck](#). The media calls them **HENRYs, or High Earners Not Rich Yet**. I never heard this title until yesterday, but apparently, it has been around for a while.

[What is Passive Income?](#)

Anyhow, I want to explore this population of people and see if we help them become rich. My definition of wealth is having excess income versus expenses. Depending on how much I ramble on, I may need to split this into two articles.

HENRYs defined. I found an article about [HENRYs on Investopedia](#). The summary is that this cohort of workers makes a substantial amount of money (\$100,000-\$500,000) but lives paycheck-to-paycheck.

Please read this article because it does a good job pointing out things that I have been writing about for over a year. My main takeaway is that these earners spend money on **STUFF**. I have written countless articles on why consumerism leaves Americans (and everyone else) in a bad position.

Three articles come to mind. Read these after you finish this if you feel that you are a HENRY.

- 1) "[The Truth about Discretionary Income](#)" discusses that your earned income job is for expenses. Once you pay expenses, all money should flow through investments. The money that your assets produce is then your discretionary income.
- 2) "[Over-Budgeting 2: Low Expenses / High Income](#)" tells us that the goal is to incur bare minimum expenses and achieve a super high income. We call the money leftover "cash flow," and that goes into our investments.
- 3) "[Defeat Toxic Consumerism](#)" is about the path to reducing debt. Consumer debt is the worst because it is optional.

[Why You Should Learn Creativity and Design](#)

The danger of STUFF. Some of the things HENRYs spend money on are necessary; however, there is a lot of wasteful spending.

A) **Student Loan Debt.** There isn't much you can do about student debt except pay it off. If you don't have any yet, find a way to avoid it at all costs.

B) **Expensive cars.** I can't believe people still buy new cars in this day and age.

C) **Boats.** If you are on the water 15 days a month, then maybe it is a good purchase. If not...

D) **RVs.** If you are on the road 15 days a month, then maybe it is a good purchase. If not...

E) **Private schools.** Financial education is the best education to give a child. Sadly schools don't teach these important lessons. It is incumbent on the parents to teach their children passive income. Luckily, I have a small children's book called "[The Children's First Book on Passive Income.](#)" (Shameless plug).

[What Limiting Beliefs Do You Have About Money?](#)

F) **Luxury items.** The Investopedia article points to designer brands targeting HENRYs because they want to follow the behavior of the ultra-rich. If you don't have millions of dollars in passive income, don't buy luxury items.

G) **Weddings/Parties.** Want your friends to think you are rich? Have an expensive wedding, then suffer the financial consequences over ten years.

I'm sure there are many other things HENRYs spend money on, but let's move on to more positive outlooks. The good thing about being a HENRY is that you have a high income. We just need to lower our expenses.

A word of caution. Just because you have a high income doesn't mean that you are exempt from the [passive income grind](#). The goal of our financial life is to have money coming in while we spend time with family and pursue things that interest us.

Having a high earned income job means just that—earned income. When we stop working, our earned income also stops. If we make \$150,000/year in earned income, we want to make at least that in passive income.

[The Business of Being Busy](#)

To make \$150,000/year in dividends, we will need \$4.5 million in our portfolio (at a 4% yield). So, we need to achieve this before we retire. It is fun to play around, hang with friends, watch Netflix, and play tennis, but now is not the time.

With a high income, we have the means to start a [meaningful dividend portfolio](#). Next, we need to diversify into real estate, royalties, automated business, and cryptocurrencies. I have a massive free book that covers all of these streams of income. The title is "[Don't Gamble With Retirement 3 + 4 \(Free PDF\).](#)"

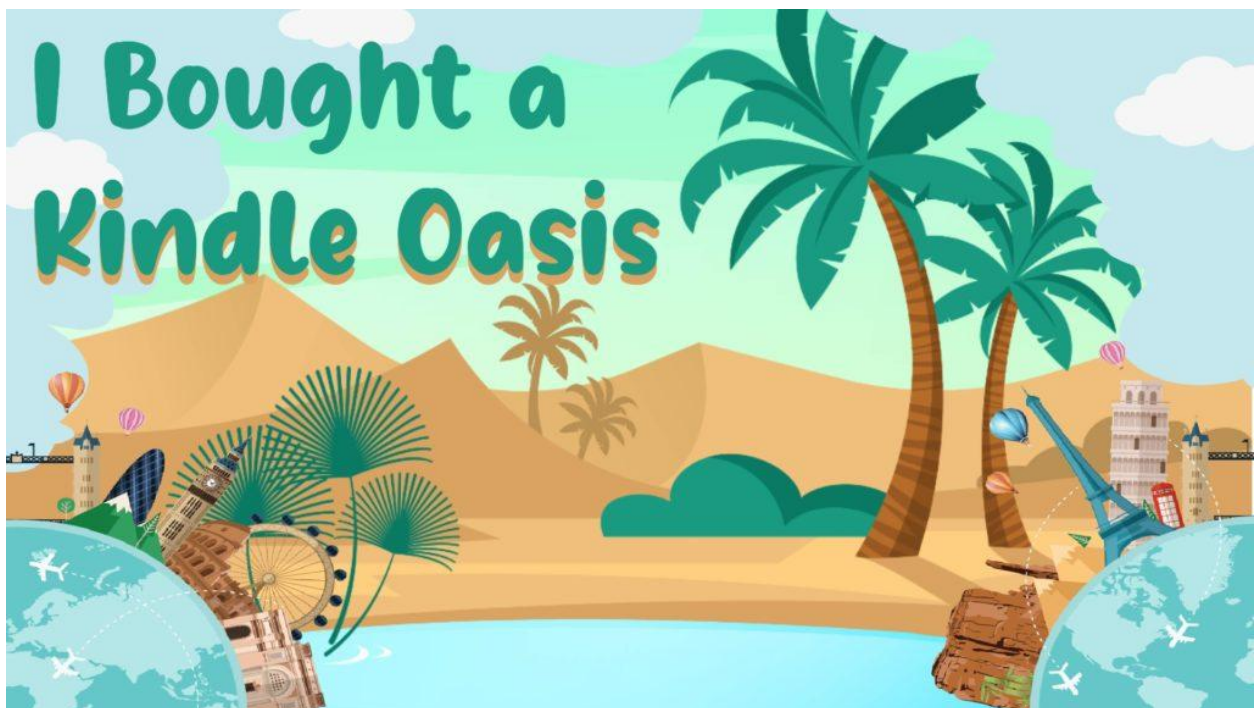
Mindset. Before you run off and start a blog, understand that your mindset is the most crucial part of converting yourself from a HENRY to FIRE (Financial Independent Retire Early). The hardest part will be breaking away from your social group.

[Do Men Want to be Providers?](#)

Sorry, as a HENRY, your friends and peers expect you to spend tons of money on the items mentioned above and your lifestyle. As someone who has no debt and \$200,000 in investments, nothing is better [than being financially secure](#). Eventually, this path leads to financial freedom, but security is still an excellent feeling before achieving FIRE.

Conclusion. This article was a quick introduction to the world of HENRYs. I was a HENRY before I learned about passive income two years ago. Now, I am forever grateful that my wife and I got on the right track and have reached the [wealth accumulation phase together](#).

The good news is that you, too, can achieve financial greatness. I have tons of free resources—just click the [FREE PDF link](#) in the banner, and enjoy!



16 I Bought a Kindle Oasis

Now, I am not a huge money-spending person, but when I do spend, I do it right. I just bought the [Kindle Oasis](#) from Amazon. I was first looking at the [Kindle Paperwhite](#), but why would I settle?

I am working so hard to build up my [passive income](#) via [rents](#), [royalties](#), and [dividends](#), that I splurge some of that cash and upgrade my equipment. But why did I decide to buy the Kindle Oasis all of a sudden?

For a few reasons, first, I have become [an avid reader](#). I just finished book number 55 in less than a year. You can read all my book takeaways in one convenient article called "[54](#)

[Takeaways from 54 Books](#)” Reading has become a massive part of my life, and my bank account has grown considerably by exercising my brain from reading.

[Retirement Planning in Your 50s](#)


Second, I think people are interested in Kindle products. I had a Kindle before I bought the Oasis. It is somewhere lost in my house. I have been reading on my [Galaxy Tab S4 \(link to S7+\)](#), and I know I will always prefer this. I should be picking up the Tab S7+ very soon, and I love taking notes.

I read a book called “[How to Take Smart Notes.](#)” and it changed my life. It has allowed me to create a never-ending stream of content. I don’t envision myself switching from my Galaxy Tab S7+. I do so much research, note-taking, internet browsing, etc., while I read.

How will I use the Kindle Oasis? If I do most of my reading on my Galaxy Tab S7+, what will I use my Kindle Oasis for? I will use it for long reading sessions. Every once in a while, I have some free time, say a couple of hours, but I can’t read on an OLED screen for that long. I can feel my eyes getting tired.

[Become Insanely Productive During the Magic Hours](#)

In addition to my marathon reading sessions, I like the portability of the device. I can take it to more places than my Galaxy. I will miss ALL of the features of my Tab, but being able to read in more scenarios is a good thing.



Kindle Oasis Essentials Bundle including Kindle Oasis (Graphite, Ad-Supported), Amazon Fabric Cover, and Power Adapter

Brand: Amazon

★★★★★ 1,103 ratings | 94 answered questions

Price: ~~\$399.97~~
Bundle Price: **\$309.97** ✓prime
or 5 monthly payments of \$62.00
You Save: \$30.00 (8%)

Pay \$51.66/month for 6 months (plus S&H, tax) with 0% interest equal monthly payments when you're approved for an Amazon Prime Store Card.

In Stock.

Ships from and sold by Amazon.com Services LLC.

Digital Storage Capacity: 32 GB

32 GB 8 GB

Color: Fabric-Punch Red

Place your order

By placing your order, you agree to Amazon's [privacy notice and conditions of use](#).

You also agree to all of the terms linked below each Amazon device found in your Shipment details.

Order Summary

Items (3):	\$309.97
Shipping & handling:	\$0.00
Total before tax:	\$309.97
Estimated tax to be collected:	\$23.25
Order total:	\$333.22
Due at shipment:	\$85.25
Remaining balance:	\$247.97

Monthly payments will be applied to 3 items in your order. By placing your order, you agree to the terms found [here](#) and authorize us to charge your credit card or another available card on file with us for each monthly payment.

[How are shipping costs calculated?](#)

Prime shipping benefits have been applied to your order.

How much did it cost? Yikes, it was expensive. I did buy the accessories as well—a cover and power adapter. In total, it was \$333. I will pay for it in installments (0% interest) over five months, because—why not?

The plan moving forward. I have never done a physical product review, so I'll probably do my five takeaways from my [Kindle Oasis](#). I will give it at least a month of heavy usage. It's perfect timing because I will be stateside for two months.

[Success is a Habit- What is Your Daily Routine?](#)

I also am considering buying the [new 24" iMac](#) because I like the slick design. I use the Chromebook 95% of the time, however, when dealing with huge Microsoft Word docs I need more horsepower. When I was creating "The Biggest Book on Passive Income Ever!" the Word doc was over 1300 pages. I destroyed my Chromebook's CPU.

I will see if I can do my workflow using the Kindle—highlighting, taking notes, brainstorming articles to write, and researching the internet.

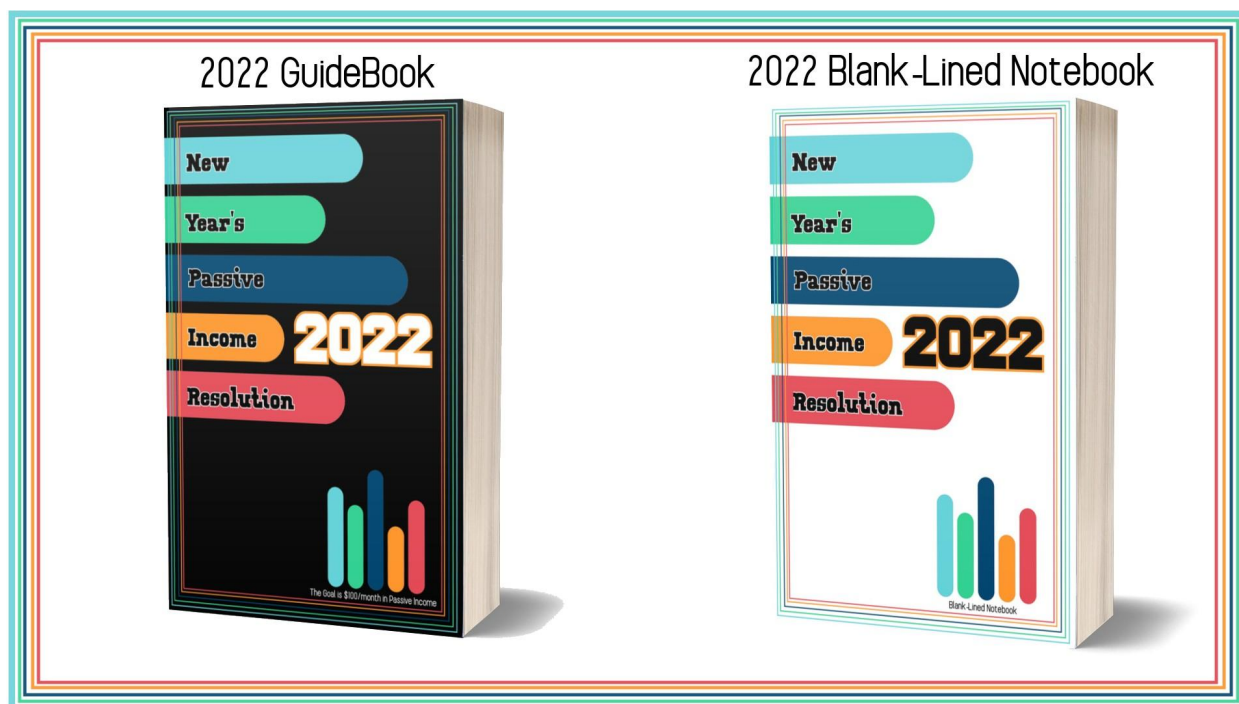
What do you think of the Amazon Kindle? Would you prefer the [Oasis](#) or the [Paperwhite](#)? Let me know. Stay posted on my five takeaways from the Kindle Oasis, coming in a month or so. Enjoy and Happy Investing.



17 New Year's Passive Income Resolution 2022

Happy New Year 2022! (**Pause**) Now it's time to get to work. This year we have a big mission to complete. You can call it a goal or a resolution—the name doesn't matter. We will [take life seriously](#) and build a passive income stream of \$100/month by the end of 2022.

“But Josh, \$100/month is nothing.” Yes, it sounds small, but you have to start somewhere. I’d wager a bet that 80% of the population couldn’t create an [income stream of \\$100/month](#) without working a job.



New Year’s Passive Income Resolution 2022: [Article \(Amazon Book\)](#)
New Year’s Passive Income Resolution 2022: [Blank-Lined Notebook \(Amazon\)](#)

However, I’m not just going to sit up here and flap my gums; I will give you solid recommendations on how to get started **NOW**. So, I’ll jump right into it if there are no objections or questions. Let’s begin.

[Over-Budgeting: You Can Only Cut So Much Before...](#)

Dividends. One of the most accessible ways to create a \$100 income stream is through [dividend growth investing](#). The goal of \$100/month equals \$1,200/year in dividends. If we divide that number by the dividend yield ($1200/.03$), we end up with \$40,000.

Yes, \$40,000 is a lot of money, but we can earn higher than a 3% dividends yield. We can add some high-yield products to our portfolio as well. If we can achieve a 5% dividend yield, then all we need is \$24,000.

If we have the stomach, we can try our hand at [income investing](#), aiming for an 8% return. Again, I don’t recommend this to beginners because you have to understand the markets deeply.

Aiming for \$50/month from dividends would be reasonable. Remember, we strive for \$100/month across the spectrum of passive income. We can add more revenue for much cheaper. A good starter dividend portfolio would consist of [blue-chip stocks](#) AGNC (AGNC), Phillip Morris (PM), Abbvie (ABBV), Prudential (PRU), and the total market index fund (VTI).

Real Estate. There are a few ways to earn \$100/month from real estate. First, you can invest in [real estate investment trusts](#) that trade on the stock market. Some good ideas are Iron Mountain (IRM) and Medical Trust Properties (MPW). Again, they would yield around 5%, so you would need \$24,000 to get our \$100/month.

[Become a Life-Long Learner: Become Rich](#)

Another way would be to [invest in Fundrise](#), a privately operated REIT that doesn't trade on the stock market. The numbers would be very similar to the stock market REITs, with a lot less volatility.

Many house-hacking techniques will net you well over \$100/month, such as renting a room for \$600+/month. You can also rent out storage space, parking space, or advertising space (billboards).

In all of the techniques in this year's guide, [house hacking](#) will present the fastest, most accessible returns. The reason is that most people do not want to share their homes, so the market is high for room rentals.

[The Business of Being Busy](#)

Cryptocurrencies. Cryptocurrencies can be very intimidating to outsiders. However, if you just focus on the huge income you [make from interest](#), you can be a winner very quickly.



As you can see from the above picture, I would dive right into DOT, USDC, and VGX. Just equally buying those three would give us a yield of 9.333%. That means we only need to invest around \$13,000 to reach our \$100/month goal. Plus, DOT and VGX have huge upside price potential. Don't overthink crypto; [here is a guide](#) I wrote to help you get started.

Royalties. The [magic of royalties](#) is that you can start building them without any money. I created an income stream of \$50/month in royalties between January and November. It may not sound like much, but I don't advertise or otherwise promote my books. If I started, I can increase this number.

[Happy Cash Flow Retirement 2](#)

If you started a Youtube channel, you could probably get monetized in one year (1,000+ subscribers). That would net you over \$100/month in passive income.

You can also [write a blog](#) and receive \$100/month in passive income using good [search engine optimization](#) techniques. I recommend starting with [writing book](#) or [product reviews](#) as the base of your blog. Then you can layer [your unique content](#) over the top of that.

Automated Business. There are many ways to make \$100/month in passive income from a business. You will need to identify your time requirements before you begin. Here are a few small businesses I recommend.

- 1) [Start a rental car business](#)
- 2) [Start an RV rental business](#)
- 3) [Become a property manager for a couple of homes](#)
- 4) [Harvest beneficial insects or composting worms](#)
- 5) [Start an Automated E-Commerce business](#)

These may sound out of the realm of reality, but once you dive into the books, they aren't as tricky as they seem. Plus, you are only looking for \$100/month. You could easily rent your vehicle out on weekends and make double that amount of money.

[Don't Gamble with Retirement 4](#)

Putting it all together. Don't worry about focusing on just one of these. Take the time to start one, and as it slowly builds, look into another. That's why we want passive income—to focus on building more income streams because we have freedom of time.

If I had to allocate my income streams, this is how my final product would look.

- 1) **Dividends:** \$20/month (dividend growth investing)
- 2) **Cryptocurrencies:** \$20/month (interest on coins)
- 3) **Real Estate:** \$30/month (renting storage space)
- 4) **Royalties:** \$20/month (ebooks)
- 5) **Automated Business:** \$50/month (renting car)
- 6) **Total:** \$140/month

Conclusion. I may make it sound that easy **because it is that easy.** I have everything you need to get started. If you want background on all of these types of passive income, please read my book "[The Biggest Book on Passive Income Ever!](#)"



[2022 Blank-Lined Notebook](#)

Also, don't forget to get the companion [New Year's Passive Income Resolution Blank-Lined Notebook](#). You can take notes of your progress throughout the year. Come 2023; we will begin to increase our goals, so let's accomplish our \$100/month in 2022.

Please join my [Facebook Group](#) if you want the latest articles and free books delivered to your news feed. Also, you can contact me inside the group and ask questions. I also have a [Facebook Page](#) where you can see my latest articles.



18 Overcome Financial Adversity

Everyone alive has some form of financial adversity to overcome. Even the people born with a silver spoon (rich) have to learn how to maintain their wealth. Let's review some of the financial challenges we can all face at some time; then, we can work on overcoming them.



[Overcome Financial Adversity](#)

[Born poor](#). There is nothing we could have done to prevent this one. You are who you are. Hopefully, you have loving parents that can teach you to build relationships and work hard.

[Lack of financial education](#). School doesn't teach us about finances. Heck, I didn't hear the words passive income until I was 40 years old.

[College debt](#). They tell you that going to college is the only way to make good money in life. Yes, self-education is vital to building wealth. Read: Self-Education.

[Consumer debt](#). They give us tons of credit cards, auto loans, home loans, and personal loans and give us no education on managing them. It's all part of a bigger scheme.

[Divorce](#). Ironically, most marriages end because of poor finances. Again, love is natural; marriage is not. Being married is a learned behavior.

[Poor retirement planning](#). They tell us that saving 5% of our income will be enough for our retirement—that's hogwash.

So what are we to do? Okay, so we are all in shitty situations; but, now is not the time to cry about them. Now is the time to overcome our financial adversity. The most crucial part of overcoming our financial environment is knowing that we are underwater.

[How to Thrive in the Gig Economy](#)

The truth is most people don't understand that they are drowning in poor finances. Yes, even if [they are debt-free](#), they don't plan for the day when they will [not have a paycheck](#). This day is called retirement, and it comes for all of us.

So how do you measure your financial situation? Let's go down a quick checklist.

- 1) **Expenses.** Do you make enough money to cover all your costs, debt, and nice-to-haves? Without using credit cards?
- 2) **Debt.** Do you have consumer, auto, or student loans?
- 3) **Retirement.** Do you save at least 10% into your 401k?
- 4) **Savings.** Do you have at least \$5,000 in savings?
- 5) **Investments.** Do you invest in stocks or crypto? Even a little bit?
- 6) **Passive Income.** Do you have multiple streams of income? Even a little bit?

How did you fare on the checklist? If you didn't do so well, it's all good. That's why we can do this together. Trust me; I fell into the debt trap in my [20s and 30s as well](#). We live in a consumerist nation where getting into debt is encouraged.

So we now recognize that we can be doing better; that's the first and most crucial step. Most people will go their entire lives thinking they are doing fine. Then they end up living on a \$3,000/month fixed income throughout retirement. Nope, we can do much better.

[Inflation vs. Passive Income 2](#)

Breaking with conventional wisdom. This is where I break with conventional wisdom and say you should [pay down debt](#) **WHILE** learning to invest. Every financial guru will tell you to pay off all your debt before you start investing. Then they say save up six months' worth of expenses in a high yield saving account. Finally, you can begin investing.

This advice is solid, except it could take 3-5 years to execute. All the while, the stock market is increasing, and you know nothing about investing. Learning to invest will change your life—especially if you [invest for dividends](#).

When you buy assets that produce money, your mindset will change about how money works. You'll build the [perspective of an investor](#). Everything in life should be an investment. Buying cars "we want" is not necessary. These are liabilities that drain our resources and hinder our retirement.

However, if we want nice things, our investments should purchase them for us. Robert Kiyosaki puts it best in "[Rich Dad's Guide to Investing](#)" when he says, "If I want to buy a new car, I buy an apartment building that pays me enough to cover the costs of the car." Once he pays off the car, he still has the asset.

[What Type of Online Business Should You Start 3: Online](#)

The Investing Mindset. Money is all about investing, creating, and building assets. Just paying off debt and saving in a savings account is the [exact analog, one-dimensional thinking](#) we had in adolescence.

If you believe that submitting a resume, conducting an interview, and getting a job is the only way to earn income, then we have a lot of work to do together. Jobs are great, but they SHOULD NOT be your only source of income.

That's why I say that learning to invest while paying off debt is the best recipe for long-term success. Let's run through an example of how the process works with investing and paying off debt.

Debt-Investing example. Let's say you have a total of \$15,000 in auto and consumer debt. You [consolidate all your debt](#) into one loan for 12%. The payment is [\\$334/month](#) for five years. Most people would say that you could double your payments to pay off the loan much quicker.

[Self-Storage vs. Mobile Home vs. RV Park](#)

However, I would say to use the other \$300 to save and invest. I would first save up \$1,000 cash in my high yield saving account; then I would start investing in a [brokerage account](#). Yes, a brokerage account allows you to access dividends immediately, unlike a retirement account.

So, that would give me \$300/month over five years. You would have approximately \$22,000 in your [dividend growth portfolio](#) (at 8% growth). More important, your dividends would be over \$75/month.

When you finish paying off your loan, you could add in the other \$334, and you would double your income. But that's not the best part.

When you start investing, you form the mindset of an investor. You'll start looking for ways to get more money into your dividend portfolio. You will want to [rent rooms](#), [rent your car](#), [start an online business](#), [create T-Shirts](#), [start writing](#), [buy a rental home](#), [invest in crypto](#), [start income investing](#), etc.

[Roth IRA vs. Municipal Bonds](#)

You are willing to try new things because you understand the flow of money. If you can understand the [velocity of money](#) and how to achieve an [infinite return](#), you'll never be in debt again. You would have solved the mystery of cash flow. Few people ever understand the power of creation (of money).

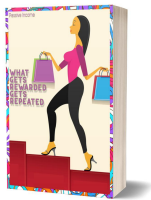
Conclusion. If I piqued your interest, then it's time to take a step. I have a ton of free resources. You can start with my book "[Don't Gamble with Retirement 5 \(free pdf\)](#)." Then, you can check out [the first books](#) that I read on my mission to financial independence.

Money should be fun and exciting. Creating money [from your mind](#) (books, music, videos, art) is fantastic, but there are even more ways to make money passively. You can join my [Facebook Group](#), where I post new content on passive income living every day! See you there.



19 Passive Income: What Gets Rewarded Gets Repeated

Building great habits and behaviors can be difficult, especially if we are trying something completely new. To create passive income, we will need to form daily routines that make ourselves and our lives more productive.



[Free 44-Page PDF Download \(\\$2.99 Value\)](#)

Today, I am going to break down [how to get rich slowly](#). And by slowly, I mean in a few years. I **define being wealthy as having excess income vs. expenses**. This definition tells us that if we can increase income and lower expenses, we can live extraordinary, low-stress lives.

Indeed, these habits I talk about work. My wife and I crossed \$200,000 in our investment portfolio yesterday. We started our journey with zero dollars in the bank 28 months ago. Now we have [\\$700/month coming](#) in passively, plus [\\$2,000/month in rental income](#).

[Do I Need Lots of Money to Start Investing?](#)

I love the title of this article because I have been talking about rewarding ourselves a lot recently. One of my favorite articles on the topic is "[A \\$1,000 Dividend Shopping Spree](#)," where I talk about collecting \$1,000 in dividends and going shopping for Black Friday.

Forming good habits. It takes anywhere from 21-60 days to form a habit, and it may take even longer to break a bad habit. Unfortunately, most of us grew up with horrible money habits. First, we don't know the difference between [earned income and passive income](#).

Second, we don't understand the main reason [that we have a job](#). We believe that our job is supposed to fund our lifestyles indefinitely. Then, when we retire, we don't know how to acquire more income, and we are stuck on a fixed income.

The most important habit we are going to form today is paying ourselves first. We need to pay ourselves first with our time and our money.

Paying ourselves first with time. How do you use your free time? What do you do [during the magic hours](#)? If you are not [building an income stream](#), you are not using your time effectively.

"But Josh, I spend all my free time with my family." Bullshit. Let me say something very clearly. **Becoming rich takes priority over spending time with family.** Yep, I said it. There is a simple reason for this outrageous claim.

[No Freakin' Way I Am Working Another 25 Years](#)

You can get your finances on track and start becoming rich in [2-5 years of hard work](#), education, and dedication. After the process is complete, you'll be [able to relax](#) and settle into your new comfortable lifestyle.

When [you are debt-free](#) and have a nice chunk of passive income coming in monthly, your quality time with family will actually be quality—no more worries about bills, maintenance, emergencies, or future education costs.

So the options are: grind for 2-5 years, create passive income, become debt-free OR hang out with family and be poor and uneducated. Don't use your family as an excuse not to challenge yourself.

We need to spend our time learning about passive income and building income streams. Trust me; once you get going, it moves fast. You can turn almost anything into an income stream. Do you love to collect Pokemon cards? Then start a blog and YouTube Channel. How about gardening? Start a blog, YouTube channel, and on-site courses to teach would-be gardeners.

I am telling you from a person who is relatively new to [blogging, content creation, cryptocurrencies, rental income, and dividends](#); life is better on this side. Being debt-free, having

a high-paying job, investing all of my money, and receiving over \$700/month in passive income is a dream come true. And I'm only 40 years old; there is so much more to come.

[Happy Financial Independence Day!](#)

Paying ourselves first with our money. How do you decide what money you will save every month? Do you pay all your bills and expenses first? After that, whatever is leftover at the end of the month you save? Do you invest in stocks or cryptocurrencies?

If your only source of income is your job, and you are living a comfortable lifestyle, something is wrong. Having a job as your only source of income is extremely risky. If I lost [my paycheck today](#), I would have \$3,000/month in passive income to sustain a meager lifestyle. But, at least I wouldn't have to sell everything or risk becoming homeless.

Every dollar that enters your home needs a purpose. They should pay expenses and then go directly into investments. Your vacations, boats, cars, luxury items are not expenses. Expenses are rent (mortgage), utilities, internet, phones, and basic entertainment (Netflix, Hulu, etc.).

You have a few choices for how you choose to invest your cash. You can start a [dividend growth investing portfolio](#), [an income portfolio](#), [a Roth IRA](#), or invest for [interest from cryptocurrencies](#). You should invest money into these accounts weekly and monthly—this is called dollar-cost-averaging.

[The Magic of Passive Income](#)

I use all of these accounts because it is fun to see them produce more and more cash flow. Even if you are only investing \$100/month into your portfolio, it is the habit that is vital to your success.

Rewarding ourselves. Letting our guard down and patting ourselves on the back is the hardest part of building a passive income stream. Everyone tells us to put our heads down, grind indefinitely, and reach \$1 million before breathing. Nah, don't do that.

Your first [goals may be tiny](#). If you are starting a dividend growth portfolio, you should celebrate when your account reaches \$1,000. You should celebrate when you receive \$20 in dividend income if you are building an income portfolio.

I am starting a content-rich portfolio of book and blog assets. It is hard to build an online business from scratch. [Nobody owes you anything](#). Every pageview, book download, pdf download, or [affiliate marketing](#) sale counts. I earned \$60 from book royalties last month, ten months into my journey.

[21 Passive Income Ideas](#)

I am here for the long run, but I can't wait until I get \$1,000 in royalties before rewarding myself. Nope, my wife and I will celebrate my \$60 by going to dinner courtesy of passive income. That's how I can continue to grind harder and better—I see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Honestly, that is what rewarding ourselves is all about—giving us a [preview of the future](#). There will come a day when we can live entirely from passive income sources. We have unlimited freedom of time and money. We can spend as much time with family as we choose.

Rewarding ourselves with a dinner or candy bar from passive income is a taste of the future. Eventually, we will fund entire vacations with passive income. We can get there with the proper mindset and work ethic.

[Financial Security vs. Financial Freedom](#)

Conclusion. We can only control things we do ourselves. Forming great money and time habits is something that we can control. If you don't know where to start, that's okay; I got you!

I have all sorts of materials on investing, dividends, financial mindset, real estate, cryptocurrencies, and business. In fact, I have a huge free 696-page pdf called "[Don't Gamble with Retirement 3 + 4](#)." If you can read that, you will be a different person afterward.

Building passive income should be on the top of your mind each day. Why do you think I write about it every morning? And, surprisingly, building income streams brings your family closer together. Instead of finding random stuff you do, you can work on a project, count dividends, and plan the future together. Who doesn't enjoy becoming rich?

I hope I gave you a little insight on becoming wealthy and remembering to reward yourself. I am living proof that this stuff works if you submit it to the process. We went from [-\\$77,000 to +\\$150,000 in 22 months](#). You can do it too if you want it bad enough.

Please join my [Facebook Group](#) if you want the latest articles and free books delivered to your news feed. Also, you can contact me inside the group and ask questions. I also have a [Facebook Page](#) where you can see my latest articles.



20 The Succeeding in Reading

So you want to become rich, correct? Do you want to have loads of money coming in while you are lightly resting comfortably on the beach? Well, there is only one way to get there—by reading. Wait, let me take that back. There is a second way to get there.



[The Succeeding in Reading](#)

The second way to get there is to work for 45 years (minimum), save into your 401K, pray you can reach \$3 million, and hope it'll last another 20-30 years. Which way sounds better to you?

Don't worry; I was like you once before. In fact, I didn't start reading until about a year ago. I was at the ripe old age of 39 when I became an avid reader; however, it has become a life-changing daily routine that I will never stop.

[Start a Home Business](#)

Why is reading so powerful? Without reading, you are living your life based on your experiences. Sure, you may run into someone that tells you a story, or you can watch their lives unfold, but for the most part, you walk in the line that your brain tells you to.

For example, I was taught to work hard to get ahead. My parents instilled in me a sense of discipline that most people can't fathom. I want to excel at everything I do. When I worked at McDonald's between 1997-1999, I studied hard to be the best employee.

I joined the Marines in 1999, and ever since then, I have fought hard to stay the best Marine that I know how to. That is all I knew, how to work hard and get promoted on someone else's ladder.

But one day, I realized that no matter how hard I worked, we would never have enough money to travel freely to visit my wife's family in Turkey. Each trip to Turkey would be a minimum of \$10,000-\$15,0000, and more if we brought along more family.

Kristina (Kris, my wife) and I had a decision to make. Either we see family once every five years, or we do something to get ahead financially. In January of 2019, we began to rent rooms in our home, which was the start of our passive income journey.

We started [paying down debt and investing](#) in dividend-paying stocks. We were becoming more comfortable financially and building a little cushion of safety. The thought of passive income took hold in my spirit. I loved the idea of learning something and watching it grow.

[How Do You Define Being Rich?](#)

In June of 2020, I opened my blog, [Military Family Investing](#), and started putting out content. It is important to note that I had not read one book on blogging or otherwise at this point. I kept blogging and getting no traction for months.

Then, in September 2020, I stumbled upon a podcast where Ramti Sethi talked about his book "[I Will Teach You to be Rich](#)." So, I picked it up and completed it. It was the first book I had read that wasn't a science fiction book.

Immediately after that book, I read "[Rich Dad. Poor Dad](#)," and the rest is history. It is important to note that I struggled to come up with content for my blog up until this point. I was trying to force topics into my brain without any actual content or way-forward.

After I finished these books, I decided to do a book report on each of them. Today, less than one year from finishing my first book, I am proud to say I have [54 book reports](#) up on my site. You can see them all visually on [my Pinterest](#).

[Young Brilliant Entrepreneurs](#)

I am very proud of my book reports and even prouder that I have made reading an integral part of my life. Every night I have to read because it is just what I need to do. No questions, no internal fighting, I just do it.

How has reading helped my life? I can't even describe how reading has helped me grow as a person, but I will try. First and foremost, it builds confidence in yourself and your situation. Reading does this by allowing you to live someone else's life and learn directly from their experiences.

When I read a Robert Kiyosaki book, like "[Unfair Advantage](#)," I get to understand what made him who he is. How his time at sea, in the Marine Corps, working at Xerox all helped him become an entrepreneur.

I also understand from reading multiple books that the path of an entrepreneur is not an easy one. When you first start creating content or selling a product, "no one is checking for." That is slang meaning that no one cares about you in the beginning. Only through consistent and valuable information, content, and products will you start to see results.

These are essential mentorship ideas that have assisted me on my journey to become an entrepreneur. In fact, I think I will write part two of this article. In it, I will list one quick sentence of what I have learned from each of the 54 books I have read. This sounds like a fun thing for me to do on this lovely Saturday in Japan. Okay, back to the article.

[Become Insanely Productive During the Magic Hours](#)

How to make reading a habit? Now, becoming an avid reader, especially of non-fiction, can take some time. Here is how I recommend getting started to build a long, illustrious career as a reader.

Start with small books. Today's books are super long and depressing to read. I'll be honest; I don't really care for reading 250+ page books anymore. I do because the content is good, but reading the same book for 7-12 days no longer appeals to me.

This reason is why I recently joined the [Kindle Unlimited](#) program. This is an affiliate link to join Kindle Unlimited on Amazon, and I will also post a two-month free program. I joined because you can find good, informative books that are 40-100 pages long. Direct and to the point, plus they are from subject matter experts in their field. The first book I completed from Kindle Unlimited was "[How to Start a Microbrewery](#)," which has vital information on opening a physical business.

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These are real books that I also have for sale on Amazon and other marketplaces. I just sold a copy of [Retirement Planning for the Average Person](#) (Amazon) today for \$2. So these are good books that you can also email to work or friends. Download and share, please!

[4 Steps to Become Rich](#)

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Conclusion. My favorite line from Ramit Sethi is “Nobody is coming to save you.” That one line is probably why I bought his book. We are the only ones that can save ourselves. If we want to become rich, live a comfortable lifestyle, provide for our families, and become stress-free, we need to read.

Reading is what will keep your brain moving forward and help you process critical information and make informed decisions while you move forward through life. Outside of marrying my lovely wife, it's the best decision I have made. Did I tell you that we are well on our way to becoming wealthy because of reading?

So please, do yourself a favor, grab a pdf magazine or book, and start training yourself to read. You will not regret it. Enjoy and Happy investing.



21 Why is Talking About Money Bad?

Why is there such a stigma about money? Why are we nervous to talk about our bank accounts and investing habits? Are we ashamed? Or do we think we are behind everyone else?

Most of us grew up in households that didn't have much money; thus, we weren't allowed to talk about money. The church I went to preached that **"for the love of money is the root of all evil."** This quote gets taken out of context very often.



[Free 48-Page PDF Download \(\\$2.99 Value\)](#)

Growing up without knowledge of money gives us [limiting beliefs](#) about money. We grow up thinking that money is scarce and that we [need to have a job](#) to access wealth. No wonder we are all screwed up when we start making money.

[When is Enough Money... Enough Money?](#)

Since we have no history with money, we don't know how to control the flow of wealth. We have a job, we are working and paying bills, and that is all we know. If we have any money left over, we consider that [our discretionary income](#).

Eventually, we begin to want more than we have. That leads to [toxic consumerism and debt](#). We tell ourselves that everyone is in debt, so we are good. But then we start to meet people who are actually [living debt-free](#) and below their means. We feel ashamed.

Some people live the rest of their lives in debt or struggling to get out of debt. It's not fun. Debt is like wearing a metal vest around your body for your entire life. Yes, you can move, but it is slow and very uncomfortable.

Of course, if you are in debt, you don't want to talk about money. There is nothing to talk about that excites you. You receive your paycheck, and it pays off car loans, student debt, and credit cards.

However, others will start to get out of debt. We will change our lifestyles, usually in our [30s and 40s](#), and stop buying crap. We live below our means—maybe [get roommates](#) or a second job. [We become serious](#). This is how my wife and I started [our journey out of debt](#).

But getting out of debt is not enough—there is still more. Now we need to [create additional income streams](#). We never want to be in debt again, plus we want to ensure we secure our livelihoods for the rest of our lives.

[**Are You Retiring TO Something or FROM Something?**](#)

We start to learn about [passive income](#), and this is where the fun begins. When you begin to have [rental properties](#), [invest in REITs and closed-end funds](#), [become a content creator](#), and [buy cryptocurrencies](#), things become interesting.

At this point, talking about money becomes fun if you surround yourself with the right people. I am lucky enough to work with a bunch of “smart money” folks at my job here in Japan. We talk about passive income in cryptocurrencies, the happenings in the stock market, and what's next in real estate.

More importantly, we talk about our financial future. I believe that the provider of the house (male or female) should only talk about money. Besides family, what else is there to talk about daily. Why have a conversation about politics? What will that achieve?

If you cannot talk about money openly, then you are hanging with the wrong people. These people are [not your friends](#). You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with—choose your friends wisely.

[**Accumulate Your First \\$100,000**](#)

That's not to say you become some money-lusting manic. No, it says that you are taking life and your future seriously. Every day something happens in your life that affects your future. That is how [I can write a new article every day](#).

Talking about money is not bad, and you should not feel this way. When you get your financial act together, you become an adult. You talk about Roth IRAs, interest rates, gold, crypto, and inflation. You should meet people who discuss these things.

How do you find people that talk about money? First, you have to be more open about your finances. I always drop one-liners about the stock market or real estate. People usually open up after you pave the way.

You'll start to be known as the "money person." Eventually, people will come to talk to you just to get the "hot tip." Avoid these people at all costs. They will expect to make money in 2-5 days and blame you if you don't. These aren't your people.

If you don't have people in your local area, then turn to the internet. There are tons of investment groups for real estate, stocks, and cryptos. Ensure you find like-minded investors. If you are a buy-and-hold investor, don't join a group of fast money traders.

[Being Unique Sells](#)

When you start to have money and build wealth, you will see things in a new light. It'll be hard to spend \$200 on yourself when you could be buying \$200 of a dividend-paying stock. You'll find people who feel the same way, and it's like comfort food.

Finally, work with your spouse or significant other to get on the same page financially. Your relationship is the most crucial part of your journey. Not to say they can't be spenders; you all just need to identify your future goals as a couple. The book "[Smart Couples Finish Rich](#)" will help you along your way.

Conclusion. Money is great, and talking about money doesn't make you evil. Just because you talk about money doesn't mean you are greedy or jealous. It just means you are an adult.

Don't be ashamed to be debt-free and invest for the future. That is what serious people do because life is more fun when you are rich. It's okay to say the words "rich" and "wealthy."

If you are looking for a group of budding investors, I have a small [Facebook group](#). I post my articles, financial exploits, and free books there daily. Life isn't a get-rich-scheme, and neither is my group. We are here for the long haul.

LIFE MINDSET



22 Can You Achieve Work-Life Balance?

We are all guilty of trying to be perfect in all aspects of our lives—including marriage, children, friendships, family, work, and hobbies. However, trying to be the best, all at once, can have severe consequences on our mental health.



[Achieve Work-Life Balance](#)

It is human nature to want to be good at whatever we are doing. When we are young, our parents tell us to be good at school. We then strive to get straight As and get into college. Somehow we tie our work ethic into what someone else believes it to be. We empowered the teachers to tell us how hard we are working and what level of success we can achieve.

Then we hit the workforce, eager to “make it” into the world. We take the same mentality from school, that our boss knows best, and apply it to our jobs. We give our boss the final say on how we are performing, and they dictate how much we need to work.

Part of becoming an adult is getting married. Many of us don’t know anything about a real marriage. Our parents are tight-lipped about what marriage really entails, so we are shooting in

the dark when we pick a spouse. We look to the movies for guidance on how marriage should be, which can get us into trouble.

Going down the list of life, kids are next. Now it is time to be the perfect father or mother. Every step of the way, we make parenting harder than it needs to be by proving how outstanding we are as parents.

Along the way, our family members (parents and siblings) start to fall apart. You'll notice the ones who struggle the most get the most attention. Over the years, they continue to work and struggle while you are off trying to win employee/father/mother/husband/wife of the year.

Finally, you believe that people who say they are your friends are actually your friends. You want to be there for them through their hardships, but they always seem to be in some kind of poor situation. Your conversations always tend to focus on what they have going on, never about your life.

On top of all of this madness, you add into the mix Social Media, and it messes everything up. For some reason, people believe that pictures mean a thousand words. We now want to compare ourselves and our lives to others. Everyone else seems so happy all the time. Their spouse is always by their side; their family is always on a boat or vacation, they always have tons of friends around them, they have time to have a hobby, etc.

When you add all this into the blender in your brain, you can make a mental soup. There is no right or wrong, only what we perceive to be true. The final nail in the coffin is the words "You deserve to be happy." I don't know where these words came from, but they need to go back into the bottle and be thrown into the sea.

The words "You deserve to be happy" are the most dangerous words to our work-life balance. These words tell us that everything is supposed to go our way. When we work hard, we will get that promotion. Why? Because we deserve it. Our marriage will magically work out perfectly. Why? Because we deserve it. Our kids will grow up to be rock stars. Why? Because they deserve it.

The problem with these words being thrown together is that we don't have the definition of "happy." Therefore, we can't conceptualize the idea of "being happy." So if we don't know what "happy" is and can envision being happy, how can we deserve "to be happy."

All of these seem like psycho-babble until you start to see it unfold in real life. Now that I am forty, every day, something new develops. People my age are losing their minds. People that are unhappy in their marriages are cheating on their spouses. Children need to seek medical attention because they are not happy, and many people are on pills to fix their happiness issues.

Somehow our happiness has become mixed into the same category as material items. This combination of happiness via material stuff is the number one thing keeping us from work-life

balance. Materialism is destroying our ability to form deep, lasting, meaningful, and impactful relationships. **Relationships are the only reason we are on this earth.**

Why do we exist? What is the meaning of life? What is the purpose of life? These are all questions that can be answered with the answer, “to form meaningful relationships.” Indeed, the only way to live forever is to form a relationship so strong that someone remembers you. That person will pass your memory on to others.

Everything else in life is a derivative of building meaningful and impactful relationships. American families used to be entrepreneurs with family-run farms and businesses. The parents and children worked together on these businesses, thus keeping relationships tight throughout the years. Then, during the industrial age, we left our families to move to the cities.

This timeframe is when we started to work the five-day workweek. No longer could we go back to the farms to visit family. We began to use the phone to contact our families back home. We grew apart.

Now that we are in the city, we need to have a nice apartment. A nice apartment needs nice furniture, and why not add in a nice car as well. Now it is time to find a spouse. I hope they like nice things as well. So, now we need a nice wedding, a nice home, two nice cars, some nice dogs.

When our children are born, they need nice things because “they deserve to be happy.” Their friends have nice things, so our kids need nice things. With all of this “niceness” going around, both parents need to work. Not only work, but they need to get promoted as well—having nice things costs money.

Who has time to form meaningful relationships when we continually upgrade our lifestyles to reflect the latest and greatest stuff? It is all a shell game, and the person who keeps playing it loses.

There is no way to win this game of “**stack the stuff.**” The more we play it, the more control our boss has over us. They know we want that promotion, and they will make it difficult for us to get it because they don’t have a work-life balance either.

So, how do we address this misappropriation of time and money and get our work-life balance on track? The first thing I can tell you, in scientific terms, is “**it’s all bullshit!**” Work is only important because it pays expenses (and buys assets), we only need the stuff to get us from point A to point B, and friends won’t be there when you need them.

If you are trying to find meaning at work, well, I have some beachfront property to sell you in Arizona. I am not telling you to become a dirtbag at work, but you need to understand your purpose. **Your purpose at work is to invest in assets fast enough to stop working.** You need to get in, start working, grinding, obtaining assets, and get out.

Once you retire from the workforce, then you will have time to do meaningful, fulfilling work. You can start a business, write books, or build a farm. Working for a boss will destroy your soul.

Getting married is the best thing that I have ever done in my life. Staying married for 15+ years and counting is my number one achievement in my life, more so than doing 22 years in the military. However, my wife and I have a meaningful, impactful relationship that will last for generations.

We are not materialistic. That doesn't mean we don't buy nice things from time to time, but these things don't drive us. They are a by-product of our success, not why we succeed. We are successful and push ourselves because we have the same vision of our future.

Our vision is to be on the beach (maybe the white sand of Florida or a beach in Turkey) with our kids and grandkids. We will all be laughing and playing together. We won't have a care in the world. Now, my wife and I have to separate objectives on achieving our goal and reaching our destination.

Kristina focuses on keeping the relationships with the kids tight. We will also need to stay close with their spouses as well. When the grandkids come, we need to be heavily involved with them from the start. Yes, there will be many personalities to contend with, but that is the part of life we should be focusing on. In the end, we will all be together because it is our number one priority.

From our shared vision, I deduce that it will cost a lot of money. Wherever we end up in retirement, keeping the family together will be a financial nightmare unless we are rich. Make no mistake about it; being rich is a must to keep your family together and moving forward. That is just the way life shakes out.

So, I am intensely focused on becoming richer and richer every day. I have no urge to spend money, but because life is full of unknowns and question marks—money will help solve these issues as they arise.

I also am not worried about getting rich via a job; that is madness. Someone else controls your time and money. No, to get rich, I have become an investor and a creator. I manage how to spend my money and time.

Our work-life balance has never been better. We understand that our 40s are the best time to grind away and become rich. Building huge sums of passive income is the best way to ensure our family stays close and we can build meaningful and impactful relationships.

So, in short, to achieve work-life balance, we need to do three things: **convert materialism to minimalism, focus on passive income and retirement, and build meaningful and impactful relationships.**

If we can attempt to work on these three objectives every day, we will not fail. It is not about being perfect; there is always a bright shiny toy that we will want. In fact, I saw the new Ford Lightning truck the other day. But we can strive to do things for the right reason. For example, we are becoming rich to ensure our time with family.

In part two, I will get into the particulars of how we can work towards our three objectives. We can set goals in each and start to achieve a work-life balance. We can achieve a balance, but our focus has to shift away from stuff and to people. See you in part two and Good Luck!



23 Can You Achieve Work-Life Balance 2

Now, it is time to get to the specifics on how to achieve work-life balance. To be very clear, the only way to truly achieve this critical balance is to become work-optional, which means that at any time, we can pack our bags and leave. We are basically working for the intangibles such as companionship, esprit de corps, and teamwork.



[Achieve Work-Life Balance](#)

Working because we need to pay the bills will need to end if we are to form a balance. Now, at the end of Part One, we discussed the three things that we need to take control of in our work and home life. They are **1) convert materialism to minimalism, 2) focus on passive income and retirement, and 3) build meaningful and impactful relationships**. Let's dig into each of these.

Convert materialism to minimalism. This objective may be the hardest of the three, especially in a first-world country. We are taught to work hard, play hard, and spend hard. However, the more we spend, the more we have to continue working.

To retire early, we need to focus on spending less and learning how to want less honestly. Everything that we read, listen to, or watch is some form of advertisement. I learned this by reading a book on advertising called "[Cashvertising](#)." Once you understand some of the tips and tricks of these "ad men," you can clearly see the writing on the wall.

Don't expect to wake up and stop wanting to buy things. I bought so many video games between the ages of 18-38 that it is not even funny. However, now the thought of spending \$60 on a game is almost too much to bear. I see the world through the lens of passive income. My immediate idea is what stocks or crypto I can buy for that \$60.

[Minimalism can help you become financially free](#); there's no doubt about that. However, don't get too caught up in the mumbo jumbo of the minimalism movement. Just understand that you don't need to replace your car every three years or your furniture every five.

The main items you need to focus on are [your budget](#) and [your invisible budget](#). If you can gain control of your day-to-day expenses and don't let them increase, you effectively defeat the vilest monster in your path; **lifestyle inflation**.

Lifestyle inflation is the single greatest villain in your way to work-life balance. This destructive loop goes as follows; the more money you make, the more money you spend, the more you have to work, the harder you work for the promotion, you get promoted, and the more money you make.

When you budget your money, spend less on frivolous things, and become happy with spending time with family, your outlook will change almost instantly. Ask yourself, "[What is your rich life?](#)" If you convert your dream to spending time with people, you can sidestep the lifestyle inflation monster and coast through work.

You'll be surprised at how happy you will be when you are not fighting for that next promotion. No more kissing ass; you know that you have the power to make a living on your own. [You can do what you love and also love what you do](#). Not too many people can achieve this in their lives. But, now we need to become rich.

Focus on passive income and retirement. From day one, we should have been taught to plan for our retirement. How many bad decisions would we have been able to avoid if we had a plan for our futures? Alas, let's move forward onto things we can change—becoming rich.

In the article "[Retirement Planning at Any Age.](#)" I wrote that our retirement plan is our Google Maps to life, guiding us to our final destination. My retirement plan consists of our mindset and five blocks; **retirement income, investment income, rental income, business income, and cryptocurrency income.** By diversifying across these asset classes, you will ensure your money has longevity. It will also provide you with a suitable asset class at the right time.

1) **Our mindset** is vital to becoming the person of our dreams. We want to become the CEO of [ourselves](#) and [our lives](#). Getting our spouses on board is just as crucial as our journey. If we can build [strong financial connections](#), we can build strong relationships.

2) **Retirement planning** involves many tedious tasks outside of investing—things such as tax management, health considerations, and estate planning. My [Retirement Planning Series](#) is an excellent start to forming the correct mindset moving forward. My [Cash Flow series](#) will assist you with building a game plan to create your cash flow empire.

3) **Investing** is more than throwing your money into the stock market and praying it all works out. You will need to understand interest rates, commodities, and investment cycles. An excellent place to start will be my article "[How We Plan to Retire on Dividends.](#)" It is a meaty article and can get you headed in the right direction.

4) **Real estate** makes the most millionaires of all the asset classes. If you know what you are doing and understand property management, leverage, and taxes, real estate can propel you to financial freedom faster than the others. My article "[Financial Independence via Real Estate](#)" expands on many of these topics.

5) **Business** is the most versatile of the bunch; it also takes the most patience. In business, you only can succeed by adding value to someone else's life. That is the job of an entrepreneur, to solve someone else's problem at a profit. My article "[Retire Rich. Retire Comfortable with a Business](#)" goes into many facets of a business.

6) **Cryptocurrencies** are new to my list of assets. I was hard-headed and stubborn and figured they would just go away. But crypto is here to stay, and we all need to understand why they are essential to our futures. My [Cryptocurrencies 101](#) series is an excellent place to start.

Build meaningful and impactful relationships. Finding the love of your life is no longer guaranteed in today's world. We have added so many layers into what we expect or will accept, from another human that it is difficult to find someone to meet our standards.

But what we should focus on is core values. Are there three core values that stand out about this person? No, not their muscles, breasts, butt, job, income, car, etc. Core values such as

caring, funny, and hard-working. Will this person be a great provider, a great parent, and a wonderful friend?

Let's get back to our roots and discover our core values; no political discussions needed. We also want to form lifelong relationships with our [adult children](#) and [grandchildren](#). They need us more than ever. The school system will fail them, and they will need our love and [assets](#).

We have to fill in the role as [their mentors](#); no one else will do it for us. The only people that can help our children overcome their [limiting beliefs](#) are us. If they want to be [young entrepreneurs](#) or [stay-at-home business people](#), we can show them the path.

That is why we must travel the passive income path, even if we do not need the money. If we continue to learn about retirement planning, business, real estate, investing, and crypto, our children stand to gain the most from our knowledge. Not only are we becoming wealthy, but we are also ensuring that our children start with an outstanding work-life balance.

Conclusion. The harder we work to establish relationships and cash flow, the more of this goodness we can pass to our future generations. They may be able to start with an outstanding work-life balance.

Can you imagine a world where you own a huge farm and farmhouse? You have a few rental vehicles, an Airbnb cottage, some tiny homes, a dog park, a horse riding area, and a herb garden. Your entire family is working their particular part of the farm—your grandkids are running around. At the end of the day, the whole family breaks bread together and rejoices in song and laughter.

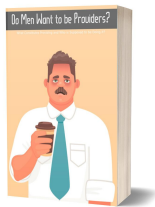
If you can't envision this future, you may have some deep thinking to do. You may not have a farm but some other form of a family place. What do you dream of? My wife and I have the same vision of our future, and we are in the process of sacrificing what we need to get there.

I wish you luck in your journey to find your work-life balance. Take a minute and think about the family farm setting I discussed. If you can envision a future like this, you are well on your way to forming the basis of a work-life balance that will last for generations. Good Luck!



24 Do Men Want to be Providers?

I know it's a strange question, but hear me out. Do men really want to be providers? Now that I have crossed over into my 40s, I am starting to see the world through a different lens. [Our 40s](#) and [our 50s](#) are our prime earning years, and I am doing everything in my power to maximize my potential earnings.



[Do Men Want to Be Providers?](#)

Sometimes it feels like just me out there on the grind. I have no interest in playing video games, watching Netflix, or going surfing. I want to become a [Passive Income Hero](#) by night and stay on the [passive income grind](#).

I think I am starting to enjoy the grind. I love spending time with my family, but outside of that, I am grinding. I don't even know why I love what I am doing so much. I just know that I will see out-sized returns from every minute I pour into my book/blog business.

[How Would You Invest \\$300,000?](#)

Right before I typed this article, I wrote one on passive income in Defi. In between these articles, I checked my Amazon Kindle royalties page. I made \$1.50 from a person reading [Financial Independence Magazine #16-20](#).

That is passive income at its finest. I am making passive income while writing an article about passive income. I am obsessed with the idea of having money coming all from all different angles at all different times of the day. I love it. Thankfully, I read the book "[Be Obsessed or Be Average](#)" very early in my passive income journey. I am not alone in my obsession.

To me, this is what a provider does—**He Never Stops!** I will always be on the lookout to earn more income, maximize my income streams, and help my family hit their financial goals. It is a part of who I am. Being a provider is a never-ending job—it is a lifestyle.

When I was promoted to the highest enlisted rank in the Marine Corps, Master Gunnery Sergeant (E-9), I had [a mid-life crisis](#) of sorts. I knew the money would be great and my pension package for retirement even better. But something didn't sit right.

I knew that either I would have to continue to work after doing my 30 years in the Corps or my \$8,000-\$10,000 retirement wouldn't be enough for the lifestyle we wanted to live. Our lifestyle is quite simple; however, it does involve a lot of international travel due to my wife being from overseas.

[Over-Budgeting 2: Low Expenses, High Income](#)

Traveling overseas can be pricey, so something had to give. I knew I didn't want to work after the Corps, so I did the mental math and realized that we need to find another source of income. We started renting rooms until we reached [Mortgage Positive](#), and the rest is history.

My mission is to grow my [dividend portfolio](#) to \$1 million before I retire and earn \$1,000/month passively from [book sales](#) on Amazon. I am sure once I achieve these goals, I'll be on to the next one. That is what providers do, and I would have it no other way.

I want to focus my attention on my male peers. Of course, I am not bashing anyone, just writing what I have been noticing since I began my passive income journey. I am trying to comprehend how men can recite football stats for every player but don't know the Federal Funds Rate or the yield on the 10-Year Treasury.

[Over-Budgeting: You Can Only Cut Some Much Before...](#)

I get that we all have different hobbies, but shouldn't they all involve making money? Once we make enough money, passively, we can branch out into **what we want to do**. I wrote a similar article on this topic titled "[Real Men Understand Finances](#)" a while back. I am just trying to understand the modern disconnect for men.

A man is happiest when money flows in abundance; that is life. We want to be in love and have sex all day, but we need to know that the money is where it needs to be. When we have money issues, it affects our entire life. Our brains are always trying to solve these problems, no matter what we are doing.

But it seems like men have somehow stalled in their quest for true wealth. Today, working a job is enough to qualify as a provider—where in the past, working multiple jobs was mandatory until the money was flowing correctly.

It seems like having boats, driving motorcycles, building wood items, etc., can supplement becoming rich. To me, it feels beyond good to have an excess cash flow of \$11,000/month once we pay all mortgages and expenses. But that is just the beginning.

[What's So Great About Being Independent?](#)

I want to build up **even more excess income vs. expenses to become even wealthier**. Why? Because I do not know what the [retirement storm brings](#). I don't want to have something happen, and I say, "Damn, I should have worked harder in my 40s" or "Dang, I wish I would have learned this in my 50s."

As men, our prime earning years are our 40s and 50s. This timeframe is where our minds and bodies can function to their fullest potential. We are money-making machines. We have learned leadership as we climbed the corporate ladder. Now, it is time to build something that our future generations can leverage to grow and prosper. Not play online video games.

One of my dreams is to write a review for every Pokemon cartoon episode in existence. There are over 1000 and counting. But I am saving this for deep retirement. It will be a mission because the episodes are hard to find, and it will be time-consuming, but I look forward to this task.

Trying to do this mission in my 40s is not the appropriate time. Once I have [\\$20,000+/month](#) in passive income, I may consider that a good time. However, I believe that once my kids build their businesses and have success, I can rest easy and watch my Pokemon.

[Welcome to Stress Freedom](#)

I gear most of my content to women because I see that they now want to feel **financial security and financial freedom**. Security and Freedom are opposites, and knowing the difference is vital on your passive income journey.

It seems men are okay being financially secure, but the only way to become financially free is to make a ton of passive income and learn how to create money. Women are beginning to want more from their lives, and having a saving account and 401k earnings isn't enough. They want dividends, rents, and royalties to help them sleep at night and tackle issues throughout the day.

If you are a man, and this struck a cord, it is supposed to. If you want to become rich by having excess income vs. expenses, make it your daily mission. Hell, make it your hourly mission. Building an income stream is one of the most amazing things you can do for yourself and your self-confidence.

Building an income stream is also one of the best things you can do for your family. Not only will you make an asset, but you can now teach your family members how to create income. Not many people in this life can say they built a passive income stream.

Men, you will be much happier once you are debt-free and prosperous. Trust me on this. Read as many books as you can and jump into the game of life. It is not over until everyone in your family is wealthy. That is the job of a provider.

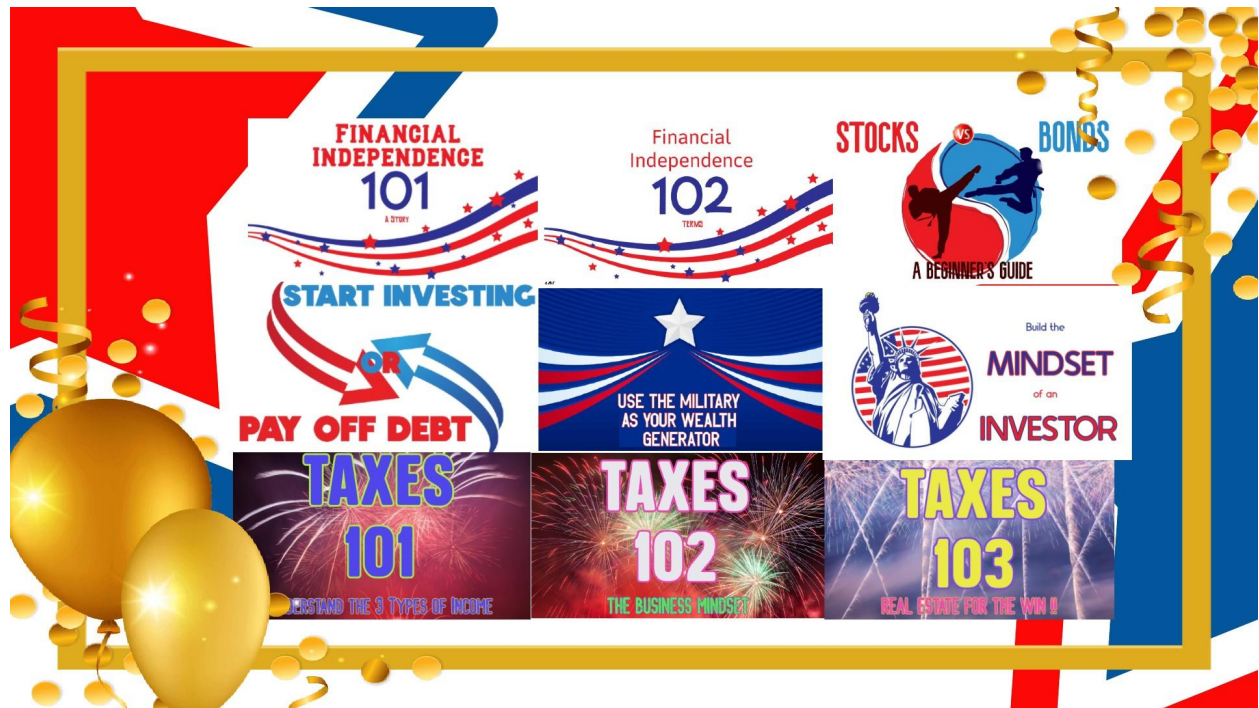


25 Happy Financial Independence Day

Today we celebrate! We celebrate our freedom from the tyranny of the workforce. No longer do we have to grind five days a week, 22 days a month. It was a long road to get to this point, and most of us didn't make it out.

The few who survived and can call themselves financially independent can rejoice through the halls of victory. They now have the time and money to live free lives, away from the hustle and bustle of the human meat grinder: work.

Being a free person has been a completely different experience than being an indentured employee. To gain my freedom, I had to learn the ways of passive income and create cash flow. Going to school did not teach me these principles; I had to research and study these techniques independently.



Living a free life doesn't mean that I do not have income; in fact, it's the exact opposite. I have even more revenue coming in and from more diverse places. I have dividends coming in from my stock market investments, rents coming in from rental properties, royalties from my books, and interest from cryptocurrency investments.

I wasn't always a financially free person; it took a long time to get here. The path was long because I did not have the education, not for any other reason. Financial education is the key to getting on the [road to wealth](#) and abandoning the path towards the meat grinder (or rat race).

To clarify, I still have a day job. I happily go to work each and every day. I am so happy because I do not need to work. When I retire, I will have my military pension and my passive income. These income sources can more than provide for my family.

More importantly, once I retire, I will have time to become rich. I will have time to build out my [writing career](#). I can pursue some of my passive business ideas, such as a [passive Airbnb business](#), an [18 wheeler truck](#), a [dog park](#), or a [local farm](#).

During retirement, I can also build my real estate portfolio if I so choose. Using my abilities to find [creative financing](#), I can pursue [single-family housing](#), [apartments](#), or [mobile homes](#).

I can also follow the stock market more intimately. I always wanted to [trade options](#) or [follow commodities](#) more closely. I would have the time. Also, finding some good [cryptocurrency coins](#) early in their progression would be amazing.

Overall, I can use the freedom of time to increase my freedom of money. So, yes, I go to work with a massive smile on my face. I do not need them—I am work-optional. I have the financial freedom to choose my financial future. My wife is in the same boat. We both can retire today and be better off.

Why continue to work? I am [in my 40s](#), and these are my prime earning years. The more that I grind out now, the better for the long run. As much as I want to pursue real estate and business, the [military is my wealth generator](#). I can make a lot more in the military with little to no stress. The military is low-stress because I have been doing it for 22 years, I know what to do.

Indeed, my wife and I are making a combined \$180,000/year from our jobs. As much as freedom rings in our heads, we would be crazy to walk away from these stress-free jobs. Once we retire, in 4-5 years, we will have enough resources (\$1 million in our dividend portfolio) to live a life of complete freedom.

I also want you to be free, especially on this **Grand Independence Day Celebration**. Why not celebrate your freedom from the employment tyranny as well? Let's take a stroll down memory lane to help you replicate our journey.

The first thing we had to decide was to [pay down debt or start investing](#). It was June 2019, and we were living a normal, stressful middle-class life. We had roughly \$77,000 in debt from our cars, loans, house maintenance issues, and credit cards. It wasn't a nightmare because we didn't know any better. Looking back as a free man—it was a nightmare. Most of our [discretionary income](#) went to paying off debt.

We decided to start investing and pay down debt at the same time. ***Spoilers*** This is the best way to do it. Yes, paying down debt makes more logical sense because of high-interest loans. However, when you pay down debt, you don't [build the mindset of an investor](#). Building this mindset is the most crucial step on your road to wealth.

The mindset of an investor is a problem solver. Investors always want to build more revenue streams. Always. That is the job of an investor, to make their money turn into more money. So if you are only paying off debt, you do not see the bigger picture. You are looking at your paycheck and counting how much goes to paying off debt. An [investor creates more paychecks](#).

That is exactly what we did. We started renting out rooms, and I got a side hustle teaching online for \$35/hour. I began to learn about [stocks, bonds](#), dividends, and interest. The more I learned about money, the more I wanted to learn about money. I thought I had a good grasp on everything—we were paying down debt and investing—until something happened.

I read the book “[Rich Dad, Poor Dad](#)” and all of Robert Kiyosaki’s subsequent books. This was the game-changer. I learned what financial independence was and how to achieve it. I consider that book a class on [Financial Independence 101](#). I learned that I didn’t know enough, and I wasn’t doing enough.

So I jumped into the books, reading over [50 books](#) in about eight months. And lo and behold, my wife and I went from that [-\\$77,000 to \\$150,000 in 22 months](#). Now we are approaching \$200,000 in liquid assets (dividend portfolio). Life is good. But on our journey, we had to learn about [taxes](#), [debt](#), [leverage](#), and [creating infinite returns](#).

The learning continues every day. I can never let my brain rest. I had written an article today, but then this idea popped into my head. So, here I am, writing more because I love it. That is the joy of being a free man; I have freedom of time and money.



Quick story. On Thursday, I was shopping at the base PX (post exchange) and just wandering around. My phone buzzed, and I checked it. I had received my monthly \$13.63 dividend from AGNC ([mortgage REIT](#)). The cash drops right into my Cash App, and I could use my card at that very moment to buy something.

Right then and there, I knew the power of being rich. Passive income is the real deal. I was receiving money from the sky. I didn’t buy anything with that cash because I have tiny spending habits now. But how cool was that? I could have purchased a trinket or some fast food with that cash.

I wrote the article “[How the Rich Buy Their Bling](#)” on January 12th, 2021, when I wasn’t able to spend money like the rich. Now, being 100% debt-free and cash-flow rich, we can spend money like the rich.

If you don’t know, the rich don’t work for money—this means that they do not exchange time for money, like us. They buy real estate that pays rental income, or they create royalties. They also receive dividends on their investments.

Once they receive their rents, royalties, and dividends, sometimes called [mailbox money](#), they use that income to buy what they want. So, what's the difference between working a job and mailbox money? I mean, it is all cash, right?

The difference is that they aren't working for their money, and it can keep paying them for as long as they hold the asset. Most of the time, their income continues to grow. You have to keep working for your cash. More hours, more money. Less hours, less cash. We need to free ourselves from this position of exchanging time for money.

More importantly, we [need to free our children](#) from exchanging time for money. It is a fool's errand to spend a lifetime working to build someone else's business, not building yours.

My wife and I still have a fantastic journey to continue. I am only 40, and she is younger than me. We have to set the kids up with businesses and real estate. Hopefully, they can manage their time and resources and can home-school their children. We need to buy our freedom; nobody else will.

An excellent resource to start your journey is an all-encompassing article titled "[The Well-Rounded Millionaire](#)." It has all the information to get you started in business, real estate, cryptocurrency, and investing. Also, how to improve your mindset to [envision a world of wealth](#).

Good Luck on your financial journey! Happy Financial Independence Day 2021! See you next year.



26 How to Thrive in the Gig Economy

I don't care for the sentiment, "**You deserve to be happy.**" It makes people think that life is supposed to be comfortable 100% of the time. When things get hard, often, our younger generation decides to move on to something new.



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That being said, people in their [20s and 30s](#) probably will not do what I did. I joined the military at age 18 (10 days after high school) and have stayed in for 22+ years. This career choice has [secured my financial future](#), along with investing, real estate, and business.

People don't want to donate 20+ years to a nameless, faceless corporation that will divorce from them as soon as trouble strikes—as we saw during the pandemic of 2020. This mindset has given rise to the “gig economy.”

[What Gets Rewarded Gets Repeated](#)

What is the gig economy? People want to work on a per-task basis instead of signing up to be in the office for 40+ hours. New age workers wish to extract the precise tasks from the workforce and get paid for them.

Yes, we used to call this freelance work. It is very similar to freelancing, but the amount of taskers out there is striking. There are entire websites dedicated to the gig economy, some of them are [Upwork](#) and [Fiverr](#).

It's like the difference between working for a taxi company and driving for Uber. With the taxi company, you are stuck in your car for an indiscriminate amount of time—waiting for a call. Driving Uber gives you complete freedom to set your schedule.

What are the negatives of the gig economy? The negatives of the gig economy are the same for people working a standard job—you are exchanging time for money. Working for money is the worst thing you can do in the long term. Why?

Because eventually, you'll get to the point where you can no longer work, and when you stop exchanging time for money, you'll [lose your paycheck](#). Employers used to provide pensions to supplement workers through retirement, but [those are long gone](#).

[How to Create Passive Income 103: For Advanced](#)

So, if workers move from contract to contract, gig to gig, how do they prepare themselves for the future?

Excellent question. Let's go back to my article "[Why You Need a Job.](#)" Inside this article, I explain that you need a job to pay expenses. You need to invest any excess money. You will also need to invest time into starting a business.

Surprise, working in the gig economy is nearly the same advice as working a job. You must do everything in your power to live below your means, reduce expenses, invest excess cash flow, and build a business (small or big).

[How to Write 1000+ Words Every Day part II](#)

Difference between the gig economy and working a job. Okay, there are some differences between working a job and the gig economy. Holding down a job is going to help you build a solid resume of work. Your career highlights grow over time, allowing you to gain recognition and experience. Eventually, you can teach your profession or become a consultant.

The gig economy has something similar to that but far less trusting. You can build yourself up on a platform like Uber or Fiverr—earning high star ratings and good reviews. But, will these corporations be around in the next 10-20 years? We have no idea. You'll need your own form of resume.

Now let's get into the steps to thrive in a gig economy. The goal is to establish ourselves as subject matter experts, build wealth, and create our own business opportunities.

Step One—Start a Blog. The most important step is starting your business, which you can simply do by creating a blog. Yes, a blog is a business that you can scale as large as you want. I didn't think this way until I read the book "[How to Blog for Profit.](#)"

Now, a blog will allow you to establish yourself as a subject matter expert. First, you should be [reading and reviewing books](#) on your profession every day. Just doing this can be an extremely lucrative business.

[Build Wealth Slowly](#)

Say you read a book every week and then wrote a review. From age 21 to 31, you would have 520 book reviews on your site. The magic of [search engine optimization](#) would bring free traffic to your blog daily.

You can also write about your experiences in the gig economy. There is always someone looking to follow in your footsteps, whether a freelance coder, ghostwriter, website builder, game

designer, QA tester, etc. Every profession has a new generation of people wondering how to involve themselves in the world.

Your blog will be a record of everything you have accomplished. If you took courses to hone your skills—[write a product review](#) and add [an affiliate link](#). You'll get a juicy commission if someone signs up for the course.

Step Two—Live Below Your Means. Everyone wants to escape the grind. So, don't be like everyone else—[embrace the struggle](#). Part of the grind is living below your means. You simply cannot afford to have a lovely apartment or house, a new car, and travel to luxury vacation spots.

[Sell Your Creativity for Passive Income](#)

No matter what Instagram shows you, you [can't afford that lifestyle](#). And why would you want to anyway? You'll have to do some deep reflection on what life means and what you want to extract through your lifetime. Also, what value are you adding to society?



[4 Steps to Become Rich](#)

My book "[4 Steps to Become Rich \(book\)](#)" explains the four simple steps to become rich.

- 1) Pay down debt
- 2) Lower expenses
- 3) Create multiple streams of income
- 4) Invest in assets

Once you master these steps, feel free to splurge on whatever you want. By that time, I'm sure you will have a [different mindset](#) towards wealth and being rich.

The main idea is to give yourself a safety net as you navigate the gig economy. Your business will be growing very slowly, and that's okay. Remember, you'll be building a "resume" via your blog—that takes years.

You will want to build a nice emergency fund, say \$10,000 and [rent a room](#). **You cannot afford to live alone.**

[How to Retire in California](#)

Step 3—Take Gigs that Build Your Resume. Remember, your blog is your resume. The more diverse gigs you take, the more people will want to read about your experiences. Don't spend years doing the same ghost-writer work. Write a manuscript, a play, or a comedy—take a challenge.

I didn't make it to the highest enlisted rank in the Marine Corps ([Master Gunnery Sergeant](#)) by playing it safe. I had to volunteer to go to war, attend courses, and take new jobs and positions. I had to diversify my "resume" so that the promotion board saw that I was well-rounded.

You'll have to do the same. There are many options out there for gigs; take a challenge and try something new. Ensure you document everything on your blog. Don't just work for money; build a career.

["Starting Your Career as a Contractor"](#) explains how to build a career in the ultimate gig economy, construction. You start as a freelancer building your skills. You can specialize our branch out to learn different jobs like painting, tiling, or renovations. Then, you can become a general contractor who is an entrepreneur in the world of construction.

[How We Plan to Retire on Dividends 2](#)

I think this book has many parallels to what the new generation faces with the gig economy. Don't get caught working parallel your entire life. You should be building upwards towards an ultimate goal.

Step 4—Work Towards Financial Independence. No matter what you do in life, you just need enough money and assets to retire. The faster you can achieve your number, the quicker you are on the beach.

The key to [financial independence](#) is financial intelligence. You can't become free if you don't know how to make your money work for you. Luckily, that's all I write about on my blog. By the way, I have 73 book reviews on my blog (but who's counting).

I have written too many financial books to count, so let's start with this one, "[New Year's Passive Income Resolution 2022](#)." You can also buy yourself the [companion lined notebook](#) to take notes. The goal for 2022 is to create \$100/month on passive income by December 31, 2022.

My wife and I built our passive income stream from [\\$28 to \\$700/month in two years](#), so I know you can do the same. The most important part of the gig workforce is taking care of your finances because no one else will. **No one is coming to save you.** We call this self-rescue.

[Life is Not a Game](#)

Conclusion. Work hard, build a side business, live below your means, and take your finances seriously, and you will be far ahead of the pack. Work towards having a noteworthy career, not just grinding for money.

I wrote this article as something I can give to my son to read. He is currently 15 years old, and the world tells him that he can have everything. This is true, but it requires a ton of work, motivation, dedication, and focus.

Forge your own path and stick to it. Good Luck out there! Please join my [Facebook Group](#) if you want the latest articles and free books delivered to your news feed. Also, you can contact me inside the group and ask questions. I also have a [Facebook Page](#) where you can see my latest articles.



27 I Have Everything I want in Life... And Then Some

There are rare moments in life where you can truly appreciate everything you have worked towards. Whether it is coming home from deployment or surviving cancer, you will know when it hits you. I have had many of these moments throughout my 22 years in the Marines and 15 years of marriage, but none may be as powerful today.

Let me tell you a quick story. When I picked up the rank of E9, I knew that I would have to go to Okinawa, Japan. My wife and I had just closed on our third home, and our money was starting to "get right."

So we were faced with a tough decision—travel to Japan as a family or send me unaccompanied. The main benefits of going unaccompanied were that my wife could continue her excellent job, kids could stay in schools and with friends, we could get a dog, and we could pay off some debt.

[JOMO- The Joy of Missing Out](#)

We decided to send me alone to Japan, but they locked me on an island for a year once I got there. After an entire year, I made it home to my beautiful wife last night. That's when I realized that I have everything I want in life and more.



However, I can't dismiss what I achieved during our one year apart. Part of the reason life is so amazing is because of the hard work my wife and I put in while apart. We decided not to waste this time, and we accomplished over five years' worth of tasks throughout our journey. So let me reflect on some things, then we will discuss where you are in life.

1) **We paid off all of our debt.** I left for Japan with [\\$77,000 worth of debt](#). We [consolidated everything](#) together before I went, and our goal was to pay it down to \$50,000 within two years. We smashed that out of the park and paid everything off in 7 months after I left.

2) **I became an avid reader.** [I read 57 books](#) over one year and wrote a book review on each. [Reading is why we are succeeding](#), truly.

3) **I became a writer.** [Writing is a passion](#) I never knew I had. Just being home, sitting next to my sleeping wife, I can feel how important writing is to my life.

4) **I started publishing books.** Along with writing, [I began publishing books and articles](#) to Amazon KDP and my blog. It has become my mission, and I have 189 straight days of writing to the blog.

[4 Steps to Become Rich](#)

5) **I learned about passive income.** The life-changing moment is when I discovered Robert Kiyosaki and his beliefs. Needless to say, most of my thoughts mirror his now. I am all in on [passive income](#) and the freedom it brings.

6) **Passive Income- Retirement.** I appreciate the passive income that my [military retirement](#) and [Roth IRA](#) will bring. So I continue to grind it out as an employee. At least I climbed the ladder.

7) **Passive Income- Dividends.** Our dividend portfolio is now sitting at \$180,000 and producing \$500/month [of guilt-free income](#). It is a great life to receive dividends and use them to go to dinner. What more could a person want?

8) **Passive Income- Crypto Interest.** I invest in crypto for the [large sums of interest](#) they pay. Just today, I received \$20 of crypto interest. Capital appreciation will follow as well.

[Become Insanely Productive During the Magic Hours](#)

9) **Passive Income- Rents.** All of [the rental income](#) from our three houses increased while I was gone this year—more money in the bank, no new assets to stress. I like it a lot.

10) **Passive Income- Business.** I am in the process of building a three-pillar passive income business. The three pillars are [blog, books, and affiliate sales](#). The triangle all works together, and they are all passive once I get the books to market, of course.

What do all these things have to do with happiness? Now that I am back home with my family, I can reflect on what I have learned. The more money I can make passively, the more time I have with my family.

Not only that, I can spend more high-quality time when you are not worried about bills, expenses, debt, and the future. I am securing my freedom and my family's freedom and when the provider of the house doesn't need to focus on bills, everyone benefits.

Would I make the same choice again, to go to Japan alone? Everything happens for a reason. Knowing that the pandemic would hamper my chances to get home, I would push to get home sooner. That's all I would change.

Being able to drive through town without one worry in the world for the rest of our lives is priceless. I don't know if I would have discovered passive income any other way than being locked in a room for one year.

[Good Debt vs. Bad Debt](#)

What are you thankful for? How can you improve your situation? How can passive income streams give you the freedom you need to live the way you want?

These questions are deep, and only you know the answer. Also, ask yourself what material things do you really need? My wife and I owe our happiness to being simple. We have a nice amount of cash flowing throughout the household budget, but we don't need much.

We just want some coffee on the weekends and happy hour sushi. [Minimalism](#), [learning](#), and making [passive income lemonade](#) are things that can increase your happiness ten-fold.

I'll wrap it up here because my body is still on Japan time. Do some deep thinking on what will get you to your happy place. I have a book titled "[Become the CEO of Yourself \(book\)](#)" that may help you on your journey. Enjoy and Happy Investing.



28 JOMO: The Joy of Missing Out

Getting older has its perks, and one of them is being able to make your own decisions. As we get older, we have the chance to participate in everything everyone else is doing. We do this

because of **FOMO** or Fear Of Missing Out. Or we have the opportunity to go our way and experience **JOMO** or Joy Of Missing Out.

You would think that after high school, we would not fall for peer pressure, but sadly you are mistaken. If anything, there is more peer pressure in your 40s than there is in your 20s. Why is it this way? Because as forty-year-olds, we have more options.

I want to focus on three of these options specifically today: **lifestyle inflation**, **investing for capital gains**, and **being single**. These three areas of life are where I see most people experience FOMO. I choose to exercise my right to choose a different path, a path of JOMO. I have never been happier in my life by living a modest life, loving my wife, and becoming rich through hard work and reading. Let's continue into the world of FOMO vs. JOMO.

FOMO, Lifestyle Inflation. America wants you to spend money. In fact, we necessitate American life on consumers spending tons of money every year. It is ingrained in everything that we do. As we work harder and harder in the workforce, we are presenting two options in particular.

The first option is to spend our money from our work directly on buying nice things. In my article "[The Truth About Discretionary Spending](#)," I explain why you should spend money on assets. But the reality is, buying assets isn't fun for most people.

In my forties, I noticed something strange—most people don't care about the long term. It is like being in high school all over again, this time over Facebook and social media. Every day, I watch people buy brand new cars, travel to exotic places, and purchase nice things for their kids.

It is a race to see who can prove that they can spend the most money. Then other people get involved by sending their kids to private school and buying bigger houses. FOMO. Everyone has to show how well they are doing. Well, not everyone.

JOMO, Lifestyle Inflation. My wife and I don't get caught up in this crap. Lifestyle inflation is the killer of true wealth. Every time I see someone taking a trip to New York or overseas, I cringe. I have this adverse reaction because each time we waste money, it adds years to the time we have to continue working.

Yes, that's right, **YEARS**. Somehow, the world convinces us that our 401Ks will provide us with a fantastic retirement. So invest our 10% in our 401Ks and then spend the rest on luxury items. Not only is the 401K just a savings account, but it also depends on the stock market being strong as you withdraw your income.

When people are spending money in their 30s and 40s on bullcrap like new cars, trips, jewelry, houses, etc., they tell me that they want to work until their 60s and 70s. I don't even want to work past my 50s. I plan to be completely done with work by age 48 (my wife will be 45).

So as everyone is proving how rich they are (by working hard), Kris and I are busy buying and building assets. And we love it, JOMO. We purchase real estate, which produces rental income. We are buying stocks that pay dividend income, crypto that makes interest income, and creating books with royalty income.

Together, we will become wealthy because we will have tons of money and not have to work! That is the secret to life. When you have assets that produce money for you, you will be time-rich and cash-rich. **True wealth is having complete control of time and money.**

The choice of how you spend your 20s, 30s, and 40s is up to you. You can pretend to be rich, spend all your earned income, and then continue to work to make more. Or you can invest in assets, learn about business, real estate, and crypto, and become truly rich. The Joy Of Missing Out will make you rich in the long run. Then in your 50s, you will be the one traveling, buying new things, and spending time with family because you will have complete control of your time and money.

FOMO, Investing for Capital Gains. Investing for capital gains is like being a football star in high school. Yes, playing football is a great way to stay in shape and work as a team, but the perks are off the field. Everyone knows and loves you. It is a lifestyle.

Investing for capital gains is the same because everyone wants to brag about how smart they are when investing. I bought Tesla when it was \$20/share. I bought my house in 2010, at the bottom of the market. I now have \$300,000 in equity in my home.

The more people talk about how successful they are in investing, the more others get FOMO. Then they start chasing these gains as well. It's all good until the market takes a turn for the worst. You see, the market always takes a turn for the worst.

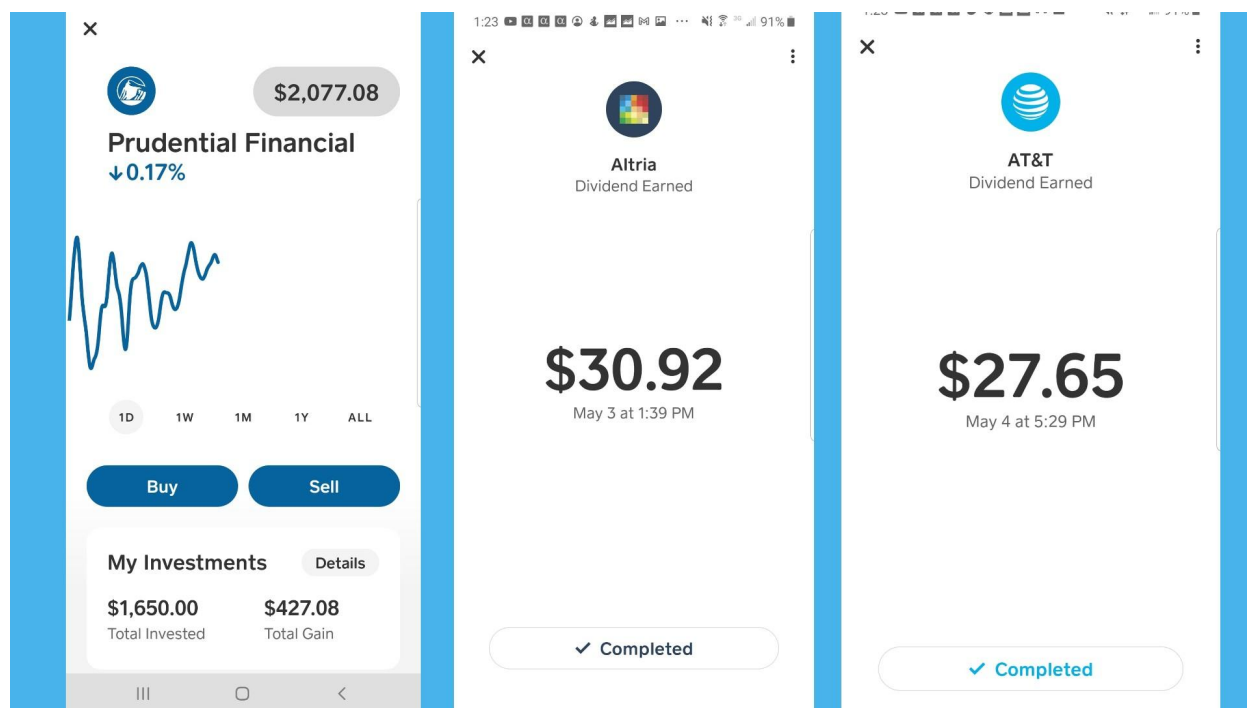
When people invest for capital gains, it is more like speculating. Their whole investing theory is that someone will come along later and pay more than they did. It is called sucker syndrome.

Here is the key to weeding out non-investors. First, they only talk when their investments are doing well. Also, you ask them, "Great, what's your next investment?" We can all get lucky from time to time, but the key to becoming rich is long, steady success over the years.

JOMO, Investing for Income. I invest for income. My investment thesis is strictly to buy assets that produce money today. I don't care if someone comes around and buys my assets because I am milking the cow every day. I am purchasing the chickens that lay the golden eggs.

I buy stocks that pay dividends, bonds that pay interest, crypto that pays interest, and homes that pay rents. I am also producing books and websites that produce royalties.

As everyone jumps to buy more Tesla, I am buying more shares of Prudential Financial. I am up over 26%, but more importantly, I bought shares when I was getting a 7% dividend yield. I don't worry about when to sell. I buy and hold and collect those sweet dividends every quarter.



Investing for income and cash flow is not exciting for most people. There is nothing to brag about, at least not initially. However, in time, you will build a fantastic portfolio of income. As you can see above, I received two powerful dividends on back-to-back days.

That is a total of \$58.57 of pure cash flow. It may not sound like it to you, but to me, it is a fortune. My wife and I are already rich; now, we are earning even more money in the form of dividends. I can take my wife to sushi, paid for by Altria and AT&T; how amazing is that?

The only way to create income from capital gains is to sell your assets. I am investing for income, getting paid, and most times receiving capital gains as well. Life is nearly perfect. JOMO.

FOMO, relationships. Everyone wants to be happy. Not just happy for a little while, happy every day of every week, of every month, and as soon as they are not satisfied, boom, divorce or break-up.

Somewhere along the lines, everyone was told that they can be happy every day. They are told relationships would be easy, and if they are hard, then it is not the right relationship for you. You deserve to be happy, they say.

And today, I see more forty-year-olds still looking for happiness than I could have imagined. Hell, Bill Gates just announced his divorce last week. He is the second richest person in the world—or he is until he finalizes his divorce.

Yet, every relationship has its ups and downs. However, both parties need to grow individually and grow as a union. It can be difficult to have a successful relationship. But taking the easy way is made easier because of FOMO.

I hear people say, “I am wasting my time. I can be happy somewhere else with someone else.” Great, go try. It is literally insane. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing, over and over again, expecting a different result. You can’t have a successful relationship if you are part of the root cause. But FOMO, via social media and advertising, tell people they can have it all—**love, a beautiful spouse, money, time, vacations, rings, houses, cars, kids, careers, riches, etc., all without improving themselves, budgeting, working as a team, or hardships. It’s bullshit.**

JOMO, marriage. I am glad I missed that memo—that I can have it all without working for it. My wife and I went through our hard times. We’ve been upset with each other over the last 15 years. But love kept us together. Now we are on top.

We live humbly, save and invest, create new income streams, send our kids to public school, and prepare for a future where we will take care of our parents. JOMO.

We skipped the whole “I can be happy elsewhere routine.” The happiest we can be is with each other. My dream future consists of my wife, my kids, and grandkids sitting on the beach. We have everything we ever wanted, including time. And we are wealthy. We have dividends, rents, royalties, pensions, etc., all coming in passively. We are in control of our time and money.

But to get to this future, some sacrifices have to be made today. However, this combined sacrifice is what makes our relationship stronger. We are not in a rush (FOMO) to have vacations, motorcycles, RVs, expensive cars, etc., right now. Those may come in time, but now is the [time to hustle](#).

JOMO, conclusion. Don’t get caught up in the hype. America will have you all kinds of screwed up. Here you can easily be spending all sorts of money, investing for capital gains, and staying single because of FOMO. Your Instagram feed will always show you someone happier than you are, at least for that split second.

As my friend Terry says, there are 86,400 seconds in a day, and it only takes one second to take a picture. Instagram is not a factual representation of a person’s actual life. The sooner you can realize this, the faster you can start to build your true life.

Skipping the hype, JOMO, is not going to excite other people. No one is going to pat you on the back. But over time, you will become the “star football player.” You will have the marriage

everyone wants, the money coming in passively, and the time and resources to vacation and travel.

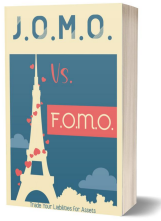
It takes time, education, love, and JOMO. Take a different path, and you will see excellent results. The true path to happiness is the long, slow road. The road of reading books on relationships and cooperating with your spouse and kids. The road of reading books on finance and investing and becoming a long-term investor. The long road of waiting to travel and vacation when your assets and investments can pay for your trips.

So what's it going to be, JOMO or FOMO? Fast or slow? Capital gains or income? Single or married? The choice is up to you. Good Luck!



29 JOMO vs. FOMO

We live in a crazy society that prioritizes having fun over long-term financial stability. The main issue with this short-term mentality is that most people don't realize that they think this way. On the surface, it seems that everyone is making these "quick hit" decisions.



[Free 34-Page PDF Download \(\\$2.99 Value\)](#)

I guess the actual title of this article should be assets versus liabilities. I'll define these terms later in the piece. For now, you can run your own experiment. If you post on social media that you bought a new car or received \$200 in dividends last month—which post do you think will garner more attention?

That's right, the post of you buying a liability that will add 2-3 years to your working career. I'd be surprised if anyone commented on your dividend post. No one wants you to remind them that you are trying to be their best self. Let's jump into a few definitions.

[From \\$28/mo to \\$700/mo in Passive Income in Two Years](#)

F.O.M.O. FOMO stands for the Fear of Missing Out. It usually refers to making moves in the stock market or crypto exchanges. If there is a “meme stock” or “new coin,” everyone rushes into that product because it is the new hot thing.

However, FOMO is everywhere. Our consumerist society places more value on liabilities (cars, boats, motorcycles) we own than [financial security](#). Every time you use your credit card to buy something you do not have the cash for, that is FOMO.

J.O.M.O. JOMO stands for the Joy of Missing Out. The people who exercise JOMO are on their way to becoming rich or finding peace. Once you realize that capitalism rigged the world against you, you can find peace in avoiding the madness.

I wrote an [article about JOMO](#) roughly seven months ago. As I scroll through Facebook, I see that most people still believe in this society of consumerism, and it scares me. Life is so easy when you shed the “mandatory” luxuries of cars, boats, RVs, and motorcycles.

Assets vs. Liabilities. Assets put money into your pocket, and liabilities take money from your pocket. This simple definition comes from “[Rich Dad, Poor Dad](#)” by my favorite author Robert Kiyosaki.

[Dividends vs. Capital Gains 2](#)

If you can follow his teachings, you will feel more prosperous than you ever have—usually in short order. It doesn't take much to trade in your assets for liabilities. My wife and I made the

conversion in less than [two years and collected \\$150,000](#) in a dividend portfolio in that timeframe.

The problem is you won't look richer than you ever have because you won't buy dumb crap. My wife and I easily make a combined \$200,000 a year while living in a very low cost-of-living area. We are rich.

The definition of wealth. Wealth is having excess income versus expenses. Every month, we invest over \$6,000 into the markets and earn \$900 in passive income from [royalties, interest, and dividends](#).

We probably spend about \$500/month on ourselves and little crap to get us through long workdays. I know I bought some video games on [Black Friday](#) this year.

The separation. The \$500/month we spend on ourselves separates us from the rest of society. Most people want to spend \$5,000+ on themselves every month. They save (not invest) 5% to their retirement account, get the employer matching, and spend every dime that enters the home.

On top of that, they buy things they cannot afford—that's when the credit card comes into play. I'm all about using the occasional "36 months, no money down, no interest" at the local furniture store. It is a great way to keep your cash pile. However, where does the urge to buy new cars every two years, new furniture, home remodels, new jewelry, luxury vacations, etc., enter our brains? FOMO.

[How to Create Passive Income 104: For the Average Person](#)

Social media and keeping with the Joneses have led us to spend our [hard-earned income](#) on liabilities. Rich people [don't spend money like us](#)—they build assets. These assets then produce income in the form of [royalties](#) (from books and media), [dividends](#) (from stocks), [interest](#) (from cryptocurrencies and bonds), [rents](#) (from rental properties), and [residual business income](#) (from automated businesses).

How can you prevent FOMO? Okay, enough doom and gloom. The good part is you are reading this article, so you are 90% of the way there. You need only take action. First, I am going to recommend a suite of Robert Kiyosaki books. You may not comprehend the power of his words at first, but you will in time. But it's good to have his words echoing in your brain early.

- 1) ["Rich Dad, Poor Dad"](#)
- 2) ["Rich Dad's Guide to Investing"](#)
- 3) ["Rich Dad's Cashflow Quadrant"](#)
- 4) ["Rich Dad's Who Took My Money?"](#)
- 5) ["Unfair Advantage"](#)

The power of reading. Becoming [an avid reader](#) is the most effective step you can take in your life. No, not reading mysteries and romances, but finance and self-help books. If you can make it through these books, your life will instantly change.

[My 24 Favorite Blue-Chip Stocks](#)

From there, I recommend reading my very own "[Don't Gamble with Retirement 5](#)." I give some practical steps to take on your passive income mission. Trust me, my wife and I live the passive income lifestyle now, and we have never been happier.

Conclusion. It is a life-altering cash flow when you bring close to \$3,000/month in passive income (\$2,100 from rents, \$900 from dividends and royalties). However, having no desire to spend this money is the real power.

Converting from a FOMO lifestyle of debt and liabilities to a JOMO lifestyle of assets and passive income will empower your daily motivation. However, you will also lose [most of your friends](#). Most people don't want to change their mindset, and even worse, don't want to see others succeed.

If you are tired of [being in debt](#), [living paycheck-to-paycheck](#), and [stressing about money](#), then read the above books. Then, join my [Facebook group](#), where I post about passive income and [slowly becoming wealthy](#) every day.



30 Standard Employee by Day, Passive Income Hero by Night

Most people over the age of 8 don't dream of being a superhero; our dreams have been supplanted by reality. But today, I can freely admit that I am a superhero—a Passive Income Superhero.



[Passive Income Hero](#)

I can finally admit it today because I just came up with the realization yesterday when I was talking to a young Marine. I'll get into that conversation in a bit, but first, I want to ensure that everyone understands I work a full-time job. I have been working a full-time job for 22 straight years in the US Military. Okay, back to my conversation with my young Marine.

I have a new young Marine in my shop, and we were talking about his future. He said that he was on the fence about staying in the Marine Corps. So I asked him what his plans were, and he gave me the standard answer I have heard for 22 years; get out, go to school, and get a job.

[Good Debt vs. Bad Debt](#)

At this point, I told him becoming a standard employee was for the birds. If that were his plan, he might as well stay in the military. At least he has the opportunity to retire before 45 or 50. Getting out would ensure he worked until age 65 or later.

Then I told him the path to true wealth was through building passive income streams. I spoke about how my wife and I have been doing this, generating nice income streams, and becoming wealthy. Finally, I told him he needed to form a **Passive Income Alter Ego**. You can work a day job, but at night time, you need to focus on passive income.

Hence, I created this article once I reflected on our conversation. Great wealth is created by those that understand the concept of passive income. If you want to be a standard employee, expect to get typical employee results. If you're going to be a superhero, you will have to learn how to fly (build passive income) and fight bad guys (inflation, recessions).

When I was talking to the Marine, he mentioned that he loved to read Japanese comic books. He had a particular style he loved to read and said they were over 700 pages each and translated into English. So, I gave him some ideas on how to monetize this passion.

He could start by opening a blog and reviewing these books for the public. This will allow him to begin growing an audience and establish himself as a subject matter expert. Then, he could open a Facebook group for like-minded readers that love this niche hobby.

[Should You Consolidate Debt?](#)

Eventually, he would grow an audience so large that advertisers would pay to speak to his audience. At this point, he would be making a nice passive income from doing exactly what he loved. It is possible, but it takes consistency and discipline. That's pretty much it.

I told him my dream would be to play all the Pokemon games on camera and talk about life. However, I don't think that was viable. I want a 100% portable profession that I can take on the road as we travel overseas. So I choose writing, and I adore this profession.

I can develop completely random ideas with writing, like this one, and make them into a usable product. Then, I can fit it into a universe of other ideas that can help others understand the importance of creating passive income streams.

When I write my articles, create my article designs, and build my books, I feel like a hero. This is because I couldn't do any of this just six months ago. That is the power of becoming a Passive Income Hero; your abilities will grow exponentially over time.

[The Truth about Discretionary Income](#)

Life as a standard employee is excellent but still "standard." But life as a Passive Income Hero is exciting because every day, something new happens. For example, you collect some new rent, or your house values go up.

In the investing world, you earn some nice new dividends, or your stocks make a move upward. Or, the market goes down, and you can go shopping at a discount, allowing you to increase your dividend yields.

In the crypto space, we have been getting punished by governments trying to eradicate Bitcoin miners. Now is a great time to go shopping for long-term success. Understanding these principles is what creates millionaires.

The business world is always exciting. There is always a new idea or opportunity to vet and see if it fits into your lifestyle. For example, our next move is [to start a dog park](#) in our house. However, I need to wait until I get back to the States (I am currently in Japan).

Becoming a Passive Income Hero. But to become a Passive Income Hero, there is a sacrifice of time and energy. "With great power comes great responsibility." You will need to learn the ways of retirement planning, investing, cryptocurrencies, real estate, and business.

[I Live Paycheck to Paycheck](#)

This learning takes time and energy. I have spent thousands of hours reading books, following websites, researching topics, writing books, and talking to experts. **Thousands of hours!** And I have spent thousands of hours executing my plans in real life.

I did not realize how advanced I was until I talked to this young Marine (age 21). My thought process was way more than 20 years ahead of his. I was light years ahead. I could map out a whole passive income career for him in just under 10 minutes. Once he told me what he was passionate about, I knew enough to build out his life.

Sadly, most people (97%) will not ever become passive income heroes. Instead, being a standard employee and an ordinary human is what most people settle with. Not that this is bad. But, I can tell you this definitively, **most people aren't satisfied with their station in life.**

In fact, most people want freedom of time, movement, and money. There is only one way to achieve this (at least under 65 years or less), becoming a passive income hero. Passive income is your key to freedom of time, freedom of movement, and freedom of money.

So, how do you get started? Luckily, I have been documenting my thousands of hours in the form of articles and books. Let's take a look at some of my different short books and articles across each asset class. All my writings are available for free on my website, and I have a rotation of [free books on the Kindle Store](#).

I highly recommend getting a subscription to [Kindle Unlimited](#) so you can follow all my new books as part of the subscription. Plus, there are a ton of good books to read as well. I just subscribed last month after paying for 51 books out of pocket in the previous ten months. Okay, let's dig in.

Financial Mindset. For this category, I will go with "[Become a CEO of Yourself \(book\)](#)." The best place to start is with your mindset and behaviors.

Retirement Planning. It a challenging topic because I wrote an article about every decade leading up to retirement. So I will go with "[Retirement Planning at Any Age \(book\)](#)," mainly because the book combines all my articles on retirement planning into one huge book.

Investing. Wow, I have so many articles on investing. Please look up the investing tab on my website. But now, I am entirely biased. I absolutely adore the cover art on this article and book, so I have to go with this one. "[Investing for Dividends 105: How Do You Want Your Dividends served? \(book\)](#)."

Cryptocurrencies. I have a great running series on cryptocurrencies. I am new to the crypto-verse, and as I learn more, I will continue to keep the series running. Here is the latest article and my first significant book on cryptocurrencies. "[CryptoCurrency 107: How to Invest in a DownTurn \(book\)](#)."

Real Estate. Real Estate is a huge asset class, and most people are priced out of the market. You will have to learn how to become creative with real estate before you can jump in. However, I am going to start you off with the granddaddy of them all, "[Financial Independence through Real Estate](#)" (book)." I believe it is like 45 chapters of real estate goodness.

Business. Business is a great wealth generator; however, most people start a business without first becoming an entrepreneur. Therefore, let's start with that article and book. "[Read these 10 Books Before Starting a Business](#) (book)."

Whew, it is a lot, and that is just the surface. I have been reading books religiously and writing my five takeaways from them. I am up to [51 books completed](#) and still going strong.

Financially, if you just want to read all my thoughts in a straight line, with no commentary, you can follow my [Financial Independence Magazine Series](#). I write every ten articles, jam them into a book, and release them as Financial Independence Magazine. So you can start from number one and flow right into the last in the series. I promise if you do that, it will be life-changing, as it has been for me.

So I guess the last question you have to ask yourself is, do you want to live an ordinary life? Do you want to visit your adult children for two weeks out of the year because you are still working? Do you want to watch your kids struggle with a stressful job, finances, or buying a house?

Or do you want to be a Passive Income Superhero and have freedom of time, movement, and money? Do you want to move near your kids and grandkids and visit them every day because you do not need to work? Do you want to help teach your kids the ways of passive income so they can avoid a stressful job, control their finances, and buy whichever house they want?

Only you can decide what is best for you and your family. I know which path my wife and I have traveled, and it has been excellent. I look forward to waking up every day because I become richer in relationships and income each day. I am a Passive Income Hero, and I am here to Serve! Good Luck!



31 The 8-Hour Mindset Destroys Wealth

Did you wake up today and go to work? Great, welcome to being an adult. We like to use “**BLUF**,” which stands for **Bottom Line Up Front in the military**. It simply summarizes the email or PowerPoint in the first sentence. For this article: BLUF- **You will never truly be free unless you build your own empire.**



[The 8-Hour Mindset Destroys Wealth](#)

Yes, you read that correctly. You will never truly be free unless you build an empire of [passive income](#) and [wealth generators](#). This mentality flies in the face of common knowledge that tells us that our 401K retirement and social security will be enough.

They tell us that working eight hours a day for 40+ years will lead to a fantastic retirement. But if we don't do anything extraordinary through our working years, how can we have an amazing retirement?

[Living a Middle-Class Life is Stressful](#)

Sadly, working eight hours a day is the bare minimum we can do to survive. I know that many people don't even do that consistently. However, those people aren't reading this article. Let's focus on ourselves.

I have been grinding away in the US Marine Corps for 22+ years—working my eight hours days. I will be better off than most people because [my military pension](#) will be incredible. But my military retirement has a huge downside—it is not an asset.

I cannot pass my pension down to my heirs. When I die, my pension goes bye-bye. Therefore, every single penny of my retirement needs to go into investments. So, I need to live off of something else if I want to invest my pension.

Enter passive income. When I started creating passive income streams, I learned how gratifying it is to build an empire. I was in control of my time and money. Things I changed in my businesses created instant modifications to my wealth.

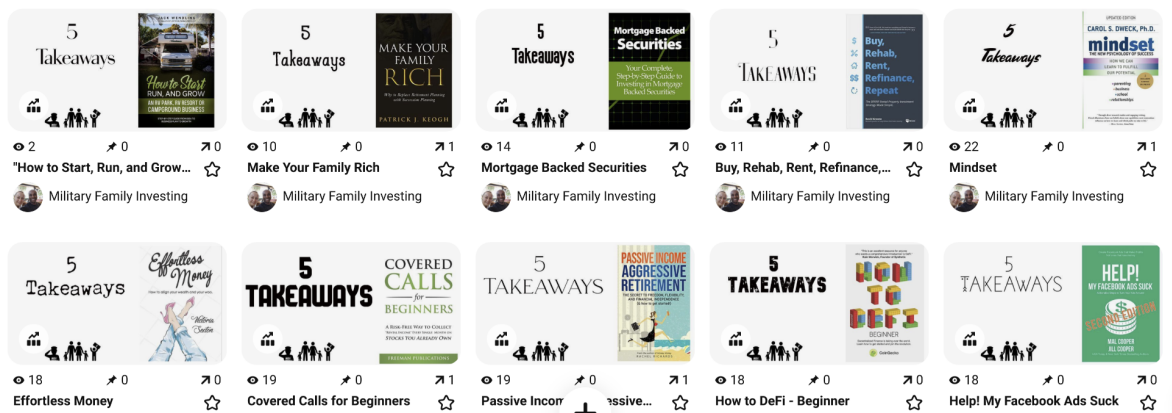
My mindset started to change from a [fixed mindset to a growth mindset](#). The more I learned, the more money I made. Every minute I put towards my [real estate properties](#), [ebook business](#), and [dividend portfolio](#) is a minute that increases my wealth.

[Is Doing 20 Years in the Military Right for You?](#)

I am in complete control of my future income. If I want to sell my bond funds (3% dividend yield) and buy a closed-end fund (10% dividend yield), I immediately increase my income at the cost of security.

If I want to [sell covered calls](#) using my blue-chip stocks, I can get immediate income by providing insurance to the buyers. If I want to [sell cash-secured puts](#) to buy blue-chip stocks at the lowest possible price, I can increase my dividend income and yield.

65 Pins



All this information comes at the cost of time. I have read and reviewed 65 books over the last year. I spend 4-6 hours a day reading, writing, and brainstorming about my businesses. [I am obsessed](#) with creating a better life for my family. I shun the idea of an eight-hour workday.

The eight-hour workday gives us a [false sense of financial security](#). What we really want is to become financially free. We become free by creating and controlling our own assets. We need to buy real estate, build dividend growth and income portfolios, create royalties, start automated businesses, and invest in cryptocurrencies.

[Happy Cash Flow Retirement](#)

Do not believe that your job will set you free. Yes, over 40+ years, you can amass an excellent dividend portfolio given the power of compounding. But what if [the stock market crashes](#)? Having a business or real estate can help alleviate these pain points. Also, we might be able to use the crash to increase our income.

Going to college, or the military, and getting a high-paying job are the bare minimums. Do not stop in your pursuit of income creation and wealth generation. I know it sounds like I am money-hungry, but what are you doing that is better than creating wealth?

The world tells you that working your eight-hour job is enough stress—to go relax and have fun. Buy a boat, an RV, or a new purse—you deserve the latest luxury items. The world also runs on consumer spending. Do not fall into this dangerous eight-hour workday/[toxic consumerism trap](#). Our mandate is to work hard, save money, invest, and build passive income.

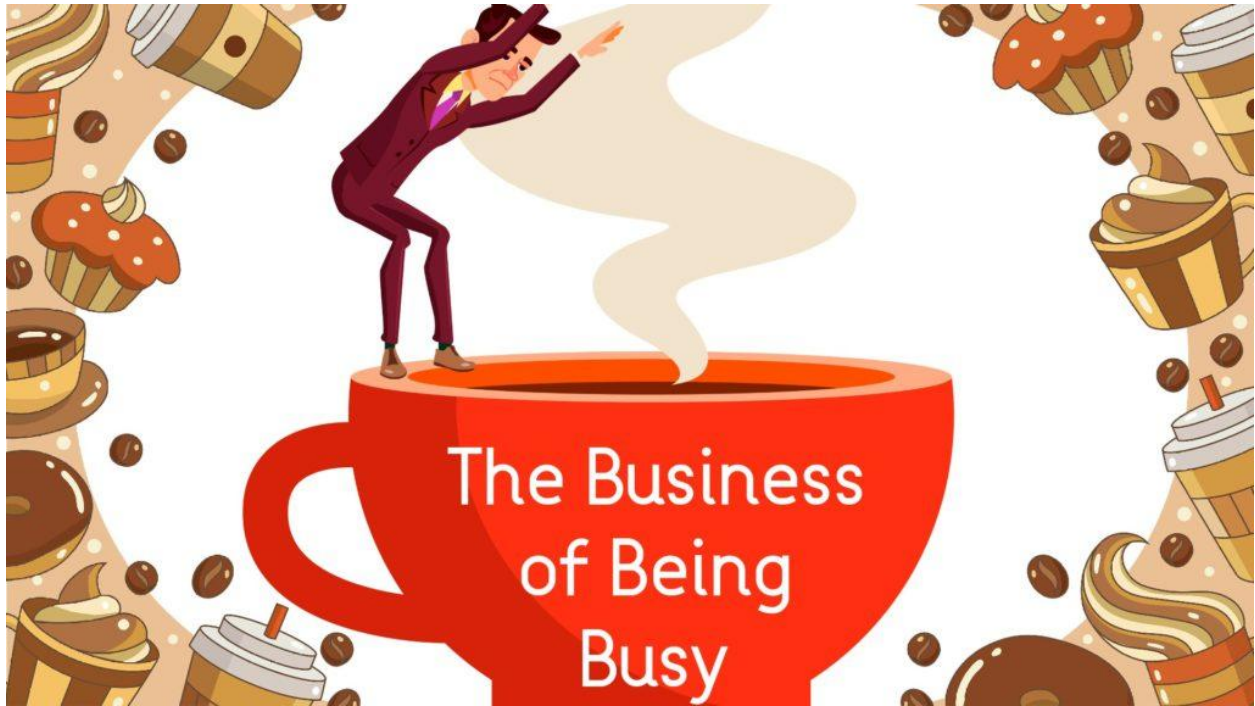
[Retire Early as a Well-Rounded Millionaire](#)

One of my favorite books (that I wrote) is “[4 Steps to Become Rich \(Amazon\)](#)” because it describes how to go from zero to hero. Next, you need to go on the [passive income grind](#). I recommend everyone pursue [Mortgage Positive](#) and start a [small company \(of one\)](#).

Conclusion. This was a short article because there isn't much to say. My BLUF said it all. Don't be fooled into thinking that working eight hours will make you rich and give you enough income to provide for your family for the rest of their lives. We want to “[Make Our Family Rich.](#)”

We need assets. If we don't have assets from prior generations, we need to obtain (buy, build, create) them at all costs. Do not let yourself [turn 65 years old](#) and realize that your \$3,000/month income isn't enough to do the things you want to do.

Buy your freedom today! [Keep the job. quit the mindset.](#) Learn hard, work hard, and you will reap the benefits of the top 3% of Americans. You will become a millionaire. Enjoy and Happy Investing.



32 The Business of Being Busy

Everyone is busy—especially when you hit your 40s. This phenomenon is something that I have begun to notice as I move deeper in my 40s. I don't know why it is so vital that everyone is overbooked to their limits, but it is something that I want to dig deeper into today.



[The Business of Being Busy](#)

Why does everyone want to seem busy? Many people feel it is a status symbol to have their days full of engagements, appointments, meetings, and meal plans. We always watch movies where the successful entrepreneur is booked solid with appointments.

It makes people feel like their lives have an external meaning when they are out and about town. With the advent and rise of social media, things have become even worse. Now, we can take a look inside everyone's house. And guess what? Everyone is busy—from homemakers to construction workers to entrepreneurs.

[Financial Security vs. Financial Freedom](#)

Being busy is the new measure of success, at least in the view of most people. When running around town, going to soccer tournaments, and parent-teacher association meetings, people feel that they are an essential part of the community.

Are people hiding from something? I do not know. I have my own beliefs, which I will spell out later. However, I don't know if people are looking towards being busy to seek fulfillment and purpose. I do find it funny that people complain about being busy when almost everything they do is optional.

Look, I'll be honest. There are only two reasons to be busy, spending quality family time and building wealth—everything else is filler. Now, once you are rich with passive income, you can be as active as you want. I may be alone in my assessment, but that is truly how I feel.

I am building various passive income streams so that I can spend high-quality time with my family. That is my life's mission statement. When my sons grow up, I will spend quality time with them building businesses, investing in real estate, and reviewing dividend portfolios. After a hard day of building wealth, we can have a beer and celebrate being rich.

My wife and I spend hours on our porch, spending quality time talking about life—past, present, and future. We have an amazing view of our acreage, and we can sit out there from morning to nightfall. We don't need to be busy because we have each other.

[Do Men Want to be Providers?](#)

While we sit on our porch, passive income is coming in from various sources. We have dividends, rents, royalties, and cash from an automated business. That is the magic of passive income—it frees your time to spend how you like and with whom you want.

In my first year in Japan (from August 2020 to August 2021), I was probably busier than most can imagine. I was working my full-time military job and, on the side, creating multiple income streams. I read 61 books, completed book reviews, wrote 550+ articles for my blog, published 170 ebooks, and learned about affiliate marketing.

But you will never find me online bragging about how busy I am. That is because I am not doing these things to be engaged; I am doing these things to be “not busy.” In [“Rich Dad Poor Dad,”](#) the author writes that his rich dad said, **“The less work I do, the richer I become.”**

[What is Your Rich Life 2?](#)

This quote is so powerful because only people who understand it can appreciate its complexity. He doesn't mean that he is lazy and avoiding work. He suggests that the more automated systems, out-sourcing, management, etc., are put into place, the more other people and systems build wealth for him.

My goal is to free my time, not create tasks that have no inherent value. I no longer hang out with friends who are just acquaintances. I have a couple of friends—that's all. I no longer feel the urge to go downtown and spend tons of money drinking. Been there and done that.

We spend too much time keeping up with people who have added no value to our lives. Most of them are unhappy and won't rest until you're the same. They don't value family or relationships, so they turn to friends who tell them exactly what they want to hear.

Our children are now over-tasked and overworked. Then, when they move out into the real world, they do the same things as us—fill their schedules with bullshit. We need to stop this before it gets out of hand.

I remember going to our grandparents' house in the California desert when I was a kid. The family would spend time cooking together; then, we would eat together. The kids would run around and explore the land together. Those were the defining moments of my childhood—not soccer practice.

[Over-Budgeting 2: Low Expenses, High Income](#)

How do we determine what is truly important? When all is said and done, love and money are the driving forces behind everything. We send our kids to soccer practice, violin lessons, and student clubs because we want them to get into college. We send them to college to make more money. We want them to make more money to support their future family and have a great life.

Passive income is the key to everything. If we, as adults, learn about passive income, then it will compound our lives exponentially. First, it will free up our time to spend real time with our kids. Second, we can teach our kids how to become rich (with or without college). Third, our kids will learn the meaning of family and time.

We have to understand the value of time. Let's look at a quick example of how two young people spend their time.

- 1) Josh went to college and got a job making \$100,000/year. He has a wife and kid and works 60 hours a week. His wife Kris stays home with the child. The kid goes to private school, they drive nice cars and have a decent house. After all expenses, they have \$1,000/month to spend/save/invest.
- 2) Dan went to college and has a job that pays \$50,000/year. He also has a wife and child, but he works 30 hours a week. They live on one side of a duplex, and the other tenants pay the mortgage for both sides—they live rent-free. They also own four more rental properties. They have used cars, and the child goes to public school. After all expenses, they have \$2,500/month to spend/save/invest.

The second couple has more time and more money because of living a more humble life and earning passive income. The time they spend together will be more quality because it involves less stress. These are the lessons that we need to pass on to our children.

[Become a Lifelong Learner. Become Rich.](#)

How do we convert our mindset from Being Busy to Living Passively? I always recommend reading as the best place to start. Books give you the ability to live someone else's life in about one week. Here are some books I recommend to start your passive income journey.

[“Passive Income Aggressive Retirement”](#) walks us through multiple ideas we can leverage to build passive income streams. The author is a big fan of real estate and coin-op machines like ATMs and arcades.

[“The Passive Income Myth”](#) is an excellent book on some things people assume are passive but may not be as easy as they seem. Blogging was something he said is challenging, and I agree.

[What's So Great About Being Independent?](#)

[“How to Make a Living with Your Writing”](#) is for future writers of the world. I love writing, and there are so many ways to monetize this profession.

[“The Compound Effect”](#) is a book on building the life of your dreams, one step at a time.

[“How to Retire on Dividends”](#) is how to retire on the most passive of all income sources, dividends.

[“The Biggest Book on Passive Income Ever!”](#) I'd be remiss, not to mention my most giant book of all time. I also have the [Web Edition](#) if you prefer to read via the web and the [Art Edition](#) to look at all the pictures.

I would start with these books, and after reading these, you will begin to see the world in a different light. Time is our most valuable asset. We need to buy our freedom from the workforce as soon as possible to spend our time as we choose.

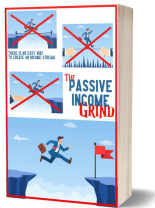
Once we learn how to buy back our time, we need to teach our children the same. We don't want them caught in the same rat race that we ran for 20-40 years, do we? Being busy with superficial, meaningless stuff is not in our (or their's) best interest.

We need to build passive income streams, buy our freedom, teach our kids, and spend quality time with family—this will make us truly content.



33 The Passive Income Grind

The more I write about passive income, the more I realize society does not build people to receive it. Why is that? Before the payments become passive, you need to do a lot of work to get everything set up—I call this **The Passive Income Grind**.



[The Passive Income Grind](#)

I never thought about the grind until I got back to America a few days ago. I spent the last year in Japan, in my barracks room, grinding out books and articles. Now, as a free man, it was hard for me to stop my grind mentality.

I convinced myself that [writing articles](#), [designing covers](#), [reviewing books](#), and [building books](#) from sunrise to sunset is fun. Now, if I don't write 2-3 articles a day, I call myself lazy. My wife just laughs at me.

[Sustainable Riches: Return to Earth. Make Green.](#)

But that dedication is what it takes to make passive income. There is no shortcut or easy road to have success building an empire. Every person's income stream is different because we [are all unique](#). Until you put the work in, you will not know your true income stream.

I just wrote an article titled "[Write Book Reviews for Passive Income](#)," where I said people should plan to read and review 100 books in the first year. That sounds crazy, but it is far from it. I have read and reviewed [59 books in 11 months](#), but I also have written 320 articles outside of those reviews. So reading and reviewing 100 books without extra pieces is more than feasible.

As soon as I wrote that, I knew that it would turn people off. But that's okay. Only 3% of the world will ever know what it feels like to be wealthy. The 3% understand what it takes to get ahead in life, the grind.

Behind every rich person, there is a grind. Now, their parents or grandparents may have performed the grind, but someone did. Someone built a business from the ground up, made investments when they barely had money or bought and kept a house through a depression. Someone did something "scary" or "risky" and reaped the benefits of that decision.

There is no cut and dry answer, perfect business, or guaranteed investment that will magically fall into your lap. I'll do a quick rundown of the obstacles my wife and I faced throughout our passive income grind.

[Create Content for Your Home-Based Business](#)

Real Estate. My wife and I bought our first home in 2008, right before the Great Recession. Our house value tanked—along with our cash down payment. We kept the house through the pain, even when we received orders to South Carolina. I had to go unaccompanied because we couldn't rent or sell the house. After all, it was still underwater (we owe more than it's worth).

Today, we are making \$600/month passive income from this house. It has been a cash cow for us recently, and it has three acres of land (dirt land) that we can do whatever we want with. I have written a few articles on the topic of land uses, including "[Harvest Beneficial Insects for Passive Income](#)" and "[Start a Community Garden and U pick-It Farm](#)."

The Grind for rental income was the 13 years it took for us to get our first house in line with our rental income expectations. Today, we own three homes, and someone else pays the mortgage on all three—including [our primary residence](#). Life is good.

Dividend portfolio. No one ever taught me about [investing for dividends](#) and income. I stumbled upon the idea while searching the words "[Passive Income](#)." It was magical. However, when we first began our financial independence journey, [we were in debt](#). Debt is something that people with families accept.

[Lawsuit, Inheritance, Lottery: Is This How You Plan to Get Rich?](#)

We do not know any better, and we say, “one day, we will pay everything off.” When I started investing, our first months consisted of receiving bank interest from our high-yield savings accounts. In month three, we earned one dividend from Papa John’s, and it was \$0.23.

Now, it is a little over two years into our dividend journey, and in July 2021, I received \$350 in dividends. My wife earned \$150 in dividends. And we are just getting started. We choose to use some of our dividends to do fun stuff like going to Buffalo Wild Wings or Sushi. The grind for dividends was to learn and also pay off debt.

The Grind is Real. The grind is real, but it is nothing to fear. Think about your first job. Did you know anything about what you were doing? I worked at McDonald’s at age 16-18, and I learned so much while working there—some examples include: customer service, making food, and closing the store.

[Happy Cash Flow Retirement](#)

Creating an income stream is the same as starting your first job or having your first baby. You have an idea of what you will be doing, but you’ll never know until you put your head down and jump in. Your income stream will change, morph, and shift as time passes in the grind. You’ll start to get results from different things you try—it’s part of “[The Practice](#).”

When I started my blog, I thought I was just going to write “when I felt like it” and post 2-3 times a week. But after reading a few books on writing, “[On Writing Well](#)” and “The Practice,” I decided to turn it up a notch.

Then I started “[Financial Independence Magazine](#)” to bundle up all my articles into an eBook. Then I started making **article bundles** full-time. Now, 158 books into the grind, I see precisely what I need to do to achieve long-term success. There is no doubt in my mind what I need to do on a daily, weekly, monthly, or annual basis. It feels great to know what to do exactly. But it took the grind for me to discover my passive income streams; I did not start with this knowledge.

Your **Passive Income Stream** is a business, plain and simple. Whether it is room rental, home rental, dividend portfolio, bond portfolio, options trading, cryptocurrency portfolio, blog, YouTube channel, herb garden, etc., they are all businesses. View them as such.

[Scarcity vs. Abundance](#)

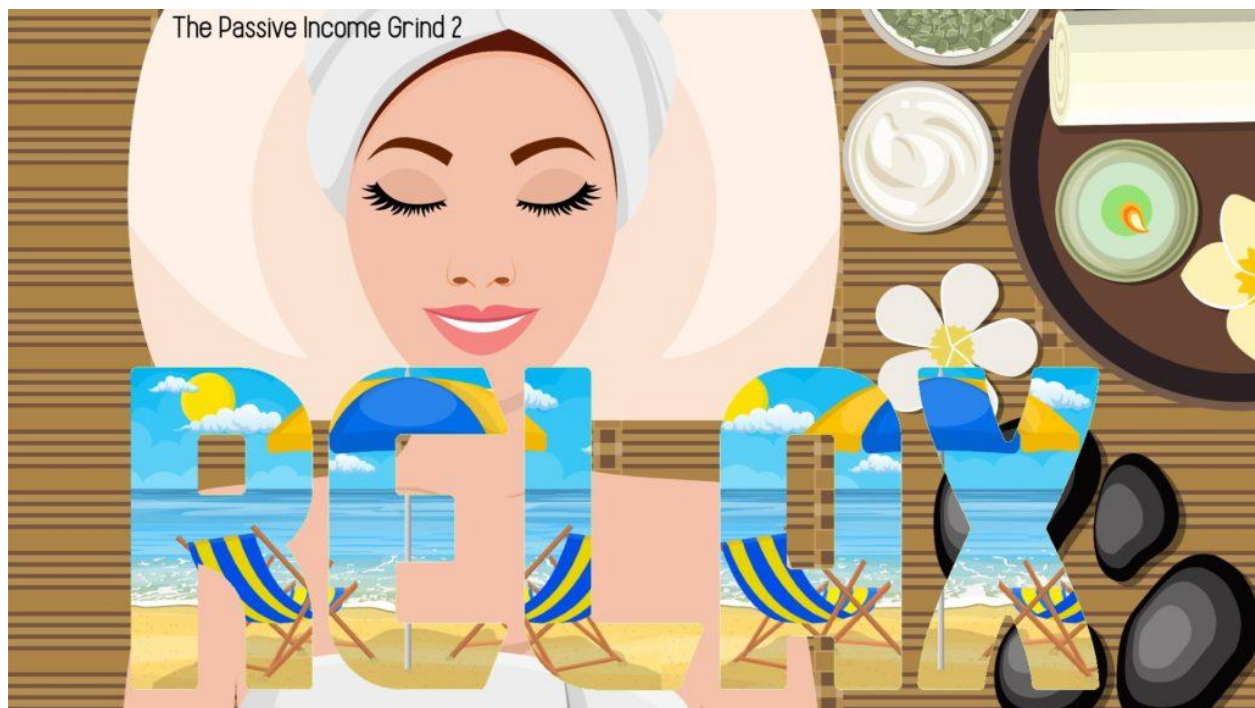
You need to know the ins and outs of every business and then figure out ways to monetize them more by adding value to your tenants, clients, and customers. It all comes from the passive income grind. There is no other way to build a business other than to learn from the ground up.

The good news is that your hard work carries over to everything else you do throughout life. For example, I know how to operate a blog and design artwork and covers. So if I decided to start a

[dog park](#), I know how to design business cards, flyers and maintain a blog. Everything flows together into our overall base of knowledge—this can make you quite powerful.

Conclusion. I would love to say there is an easy way to make passive income, but there isn't. I wish we could read books and YouTube videos to figure everything out before getting started, but we can't.

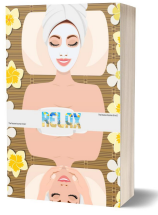
The best I can say is to prepare for the grind. Envision [your rich life](#), ensure you have [enough motivation](#) and put your head down. Don't come up until you know your passive income stream and how to make it successful, exactly. Good Luck!



34 The Passive Income Grind 2: Relax

The world teaches from an early age that the only way to make money is via a job and an employer. We need to fill out an application, submit a resume, attend an interview, and be chosen by a human resources representative.

When your job goes away, then it's on to the next one. This process can be stressful, especially if you have mouths to feed at home. We gear everything we do in life to finding, keeping, and succeeding at a job or career.



[The Passive Income Grind 2: Relax](#)

Heck, sometimes we may feel building our career is more important than family. As ridiculous as this may sound, it can happen because we are hard-wired to focus on these careers above all else.

[The Business of Being Busy](#)

Hey, I played the corporate game for over 22 years (and still counting). I climbed the US Marine Corps ladder from recruit (E-1) in 1999 to Master Gunnery Sergeant (E-9) in 2019. I am not bad-mouthing anyone—yes, and I lost my sense of priorities at some point. That's life, and hopefully, you can keep your family long enough to see the truth of the matter.

So why did I go on the rant? I want to give you an alternative to this employee-minded future. Yes, you will most likely [need to work a job](#)—there is nothing more efficient than getting a paycheck to pay expenses.

However, instead of depending ALL of your life on your job, you can travel a different path. The alternative is called [Passive Income](#). Passive income is money that you can make while doing anything else you want. The HUGE caveat is that it usually takes a large amount of work upfront to achieve that steady cash flow.

Last month, my wife and I made [\\$650 in passive income](#) from royalties, dividends, and crypto interest. Oh yeah, and \$2,000 in rent from our three rental properties. Yes, life is good; and we are re-investing this cash into more dividends to bring us more money.

We have been building our passive income streams for roughly 2.5 years now and have no plans of stopping anytime soon. This is a lifelong journey that we will pass on to our children. How did we get to this point? Grinding.

[Blogging to Financial Independence](#)

I wrote an article about three months ago titled "[The Passive Income Grind](#)." The article talked about the backbreaking work and dedication it will take to build an income stream. Most people in the world (95%) will never achieve their own income stream. Yes, some people will save money into a 401K and use that through retirement, but is that truly an income stream?

Make no mistake about it; when you learn to build an income stream, you learn to create [money from thin air](#). That's the difficulty of building an income stream; it goes against everything they teach us from childhood. You don't need a boss, a W-2, or a job to make money—you can do it all from your brain.

But you must configure your brain to create wealth—that's the grind. The process can be long and frustrating. I started my passive income journey in June 2019 by learning about [dividend growth investing](#).

[Web Edition: The Biggest Book on Passive Income Ever!](#)

Dividend growth investing is the perfect way to start your journey because it is very slow. Only the patient person can stock with this method of building wealth. In my first month of dividends, I earned \$0.25 from Papa John's. **Yes, I said 25 cents for the month.** Two years later, we made \$550 in one month. Crazy.

That is the power of time, compounding, positivity, and discipline. You will need all of these things moving into any income stream, including [buying and renting properties](#). Dealing with tenants and [housing issues is beyond annoying](#), but you want to be rich, right?

When I wrote "The Passive Income Grind," I was mainly focused on building a business or royalties because that is the true grind. Learning how to create a product that an audience wants, and doing it consistently, is difficult.

We all can create whatever we want, just don't expect anyone to buy your product. The market demands what the market demands, and the market is a cruel mistress. I want to review my grind and then tell you how to relax moving forward.

[21 Passive Income Ideas](#)

My Passive Income Grind is all about [writing and releasing books](#). I started releasing books about ten months ago, and it has been rewarding—to say the least. I first had to learn how to write, so I read "[On Writing Well](#)."

Then I needed to learn how to design, so I read "[The Non-Designer's Design Book](#)." Next, I learned about advertising from the book "[Ca\\$hvertising](#)." I read books about being an author, including "[How to Make A Living with Your Writing](#)," "[How to Market a Book](#)," and "[Creating Income Streams](#)."

In total, [I have read 68 books](#) in roughly a year—and still going strong. In addition to reading 68 books, I published 620 articles on my blog and published 250 books on Amazon. I am just getting started.

[Passive Income for Christmas](#)

I grinded for 5 hours a night on work nights and 12 hours on weekends and holidays. I never knew when to stop grinding because I never knew how to end the process. When you learn how to create money, you don't want to stop creating money. I never permitted myself to take a break for over a year.

I felt guilty watching Netflix or playing a videogame because I could always be doing something more productive. To a certain extent, this was true. Netflix, video games, news, and politics are a waste of time. But...

However, I then read a book called "[The Relaxed Author](#)" that sort of changed my life. The book is from two authors that talk about the longevity of being a writer. The long game is vastly more important than the short term.

[Write Book Reviews for Passive Income](#)

I reflected on this book for quite some time. It's deep stuff. You can create money on a whim, yet, you don't have to do it all day, every day. It's okay to give yourself permission to slow down and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

For [us serious people](#), it's hard to slow down. We see the future, and we want to do everything in our power to protect our family and set everyone up for success. But at some point, we have done everything we can do for the moment. [Time and consistency](#) are more important than a gold rush.

Now, don't get me wrong, you'll need to grind upfront. It takes [10,000 hours to get proficient](#) at something, so the more you can accomplish upfront, the more enjoyable the ride.

Listen, I am only talking to three percent of the people in the world. It is not normal to spend your free time [writing, reading, creating, and building wealth](#). Most people would rather go to the beach or a drive-in movie.

[You'll Need \\$20,000/Month in Passive Income](#)

But wouldn't it be nice to go to the beach and drive-in movies with wealth from [dividends, rents, interest, business, and royalties](#)? I am living the dream right now, at age 40. I have, hopefully, 40 more years to enjoy the passive income lifestyle with my wife.

So I am giving myself permission to relax. Sure, I am still putting four hours a day into my writing and books, but that also includes the weekends. I write the same amount on weekends now, so I have ten hours to spend as I like. I used to grind for 10+ hours on the weekends.

It is hard to go back to “semi” normal, but I have done the work. Now, I just need to maintain the operational tempo for the rest of my life. Personally, I know I can. I get very excited when writing and creating, and it is something I can do forever.

I hope this article made sense to you. You will have to grind super hard at first, but once you see a clear path, it is okay to slow down a little. Longevity and consistency are more important than the initial gold rush. **Jump in, learn, test, build, and create a long-term strategy that can last a lifetime.**

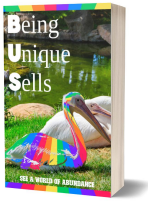
I love the process. If you want to learn more about building passive income, please follow me on [Twitter](#) or [my Facebook Page](#). Thanks for reading, and have a wonderful day!

MONEY MINDSET



35 Being Unique Sells

One of my favorite YouTube channels is a dude playing Pokemon games on-stream. But he isn't your typical guy; he is cursing up a storm. Every word out of his mouth is a swear word. I absolutely love this channel, and it is hilarious to have such lousy language over a children's game. Obviously, it is a channel for adults.



[Being Unique Sells](#)

Who would've thought that a channel like this could exist in today's world? An even deeper question is who would've thought that the channel would have 400,000 subscribers? That is the magic of being unique.

One of the biggest hurdles people must overcome when creating content is a [scarcity mindset](#). They believe there is not enough room in the creative space to fit them and their work. This is one of the craziest things that people can believe.

[How to Write 1000+ Words Everyday](#)

There is more than enough space in the world for you to share your creative works. There is only one **YOU**, and no one on Earth is the same as you. You are a combination of experiences, childhood memories, environments, social settings, knowledge, education, your five closest friends, etc.

On top of that, you have your own taste, hobbies, favorite foods, travels, families, etc. Your composition is of infinite possibilities. You are an abundance of events and thoughts, and there is an [abundance of people](#) who want to listen to you.

The first step in starting a [content creation business](#) or [any business](#) is believing in yourself. Without this, you may as well continue to work your day job until age 80. But you are reading this article because you are interested in being more than yourself—you want to add value to the world.

I wasn't always a writer; in fact, I just started writing seven months ago. However, I have amassed 500+ articles on my blog because I guess I have a lot to say. If you go back and look at all of my article covers [on Pinterest](#), what do you think about them?

Some of them make sense; some are colorful, others are weird, some are just plain random. Do you know why they are like that? Because I am a unique person, and this is my platform to display my uniqueness.

[Basics of Design 106](#)

And if I can do it, you can do it. I am a lifelong US Marine who has worn a green uniform for 22 years and counting. So, if I come home and want to create some weird art, then so be it. I believe there is someone out there that wants to see my art every day I post.

Guess what? So far, I have amassed a tiny following. I recently had someone buy my first paperback (I have [tons of ebooks](#)) that I released. I sell it for \$15, and I never thought I would sell one.

Why do I sell the paperback for so much cash? I believe a big part of my brand is the daily artwork that I lovingly craft. I spend 20-30 minutes making artwork, and it is one of a kind. I am trying my best to improve and give people something to look forward to.

[Don't Gamble Your Retirement Away 3](#)

I always include my artwork in my eBook release, but I get penalized. You see, the size of the ebook file size affects the royalties you receive. The bigger the book, the less you receive in royalties. You can, of course, increase the price, but that would be a non-starter for a new author.

So I take a pretty significant loss selling my books with artwork, but I believe my art is essential to my brand. Screw that; my art is very important to me. I love looking through my artwork, and I can't believe I created some of them. Some of them I can't believe I released (lol).

Anyways, when it comes to my paperbacks, I also feel the same way—I want my artwork in there as well. So I choose the best paper, glossy ink, and add color. I make it the most expensive book that I can.

For a 45 page book, the minimum I can sell for is \$10. That is with a \$0.50 commission. So, I jacked the price up to \$15 for my paperback. That would be a \$5 royalty. Creating a paperback is twice as much work as an ebook, and I don't want to waste my time. I could release another ebook in the time it takes to create a paperback.

So I created [my first paperback](#), and wow, it sold for \$15 in less than a week. I was shocked because I never expected to sell any paperbacks, let alone at this price point. But I want the reader to experience the book the way it was intended, with high-quality artwork.

My artwork and my voice combined to make me very unique. I do not talk about the standard ways of getting rich. I talk about [renting rooms](#), [harvesting insects](#), and [buying closed-end funds](#). **Being Unique Sells.**

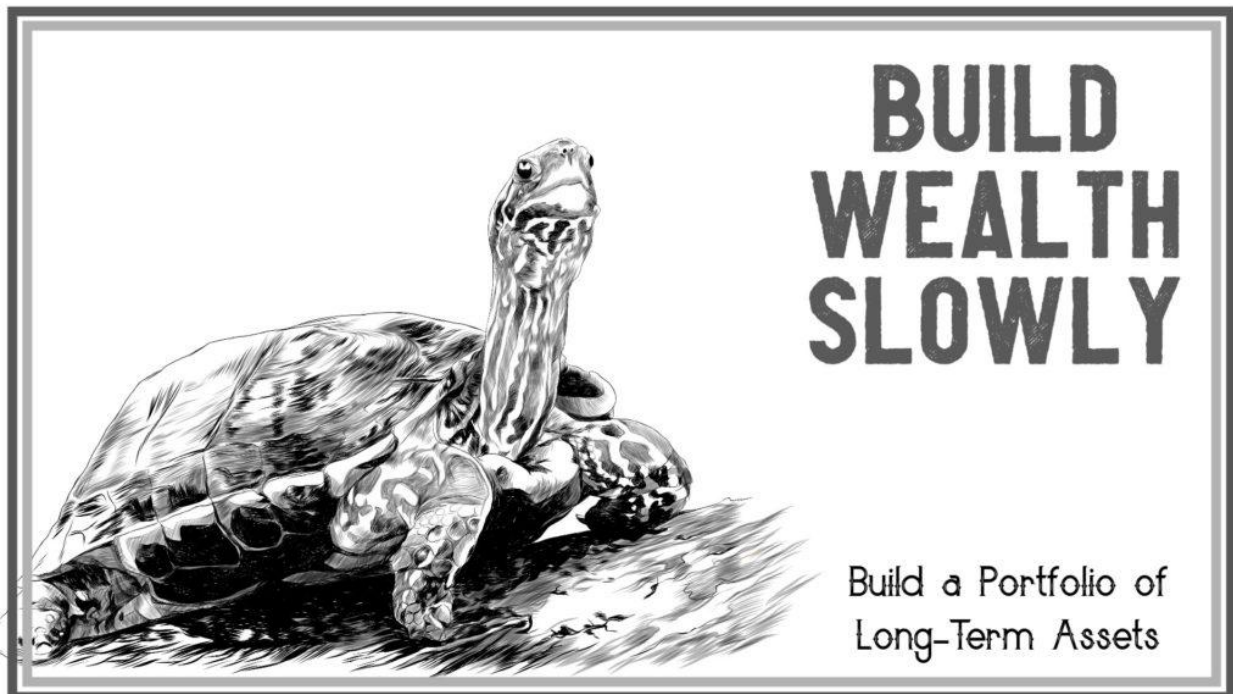
I am living proof that you can build your audience from scratch and be the person you want to be. Everything you read is who I am. I don't write anything I don't believe in. I sold 35 ebooks last month, which was month six of my writing journey. I am very proud of this number. In my first month, I sold one book.

[Run a Property Management Business](#)

There is a lot to unpack here, so I will follow an article to complete my thoughts. The takeaway from the report is that you need to believe that there is room in the creative space for you and your unique talents.

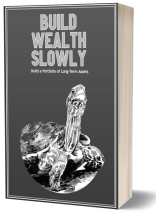
Every single person on Earth has a unique talent, even if it is buying McDonald's coffee every Saturday at the same time. Don't be discouraged by the haters; they will be jealous no matter what you do.

In part two, we will try to identify what makes you unique. We need to ask some questions about ourselves and our thought processes. Then we need to fill you with more information from books; that is how you [create a never-ending stream of content](#). Until next time, Enjoy and Happy Investing.



36 Build Wealth Slowly

What's the rush? We all seem to want to become wealthy beyond our wildest dreams—quick, fast, and in a hurry. The quote “it's not about the destination, it's about the journey” comes to mind. So, how do we slow down, reduce stress, make great decisions, enjoy life, **AND** become rich simultaneously?



[Build Wealth Slowly](#)

The answer is that we focus on building a portfolio of **long-term assets**. I define long-term assets as items that produce money that we can leave to our children. I like to add the “leave to our children” because it helps qualify the assets in which we decide to invest our time and resources.

Just because you build wealth slowly doesn't mean you will live your entire life poor. In fact, quite the opposite. I wrote an article yesterday titled “[From \\$28/mo to \\$700/mo in Passive Income in 2 Years.](#)” where I reviewed our journey to financial freedom.

[The Business of RV Life](#)

The month where we earned \$28 was October 2019. We still had [-\\$77,000 of debt](#) and multiple cars, loans, and credit cards to finish paying. By October 2021, we were completely debt-free, had \$200,000 in the bank, started a business, and were ten times happier about our financial situation.

That's the power of building wealth slowly; you get to learn how to form deep thoughts about wealth, relationships, and life. The more [you read books](#), [talk with like-minded folks](#), and generally [become more serious](#), the more cohesive your life becomes.

Don't let the people who say “money is not important” set you off your path. To have a wonderful life, you need to be in complete control of your finances. You need a plan for every dollar that enters your household. Once you [control your finances](#), you'll be surprised at how much better [your relationships](#) and interactions become.

Build a Portfolio of long-term assets. I want to focus on building long-term assets. You may not know what this means, so I will give concrete examples of ways to achieve this goal. Once you understand the concept, you will realize that life isn't about making money but rather obtaining long-term assets. Let's begin.

[How to Start Dividends Investing 103: Pick Your Platform](#)

Your Job. Your job is not a long-term asset because you can't give it to your children. However, most of [us will need a job](#) for a good portion of our lives. So once we pay our living expenses,

our primary mission is converting our [earned income](#) to long-term assets that produce passive income.

We can convert our earned income to interest from cryptocurrencies, dividends from stocks, income from a business, and rents from real estate. Whatever our heart desires, but we need to have a solid plan. [Living above our means](#), getting [caught in toxic consumerism](#), and [falling into the trap of lifestyle inflation](#) are ways to waste our earned income.

The Stock Market. Many people chase fast capital gains in the stock market. Why? Remember that the stock market is not a tool to make you rich. Getting a 10% annual return in the stock market is considered pretty amazing. However, [I can rent rooms](#) in my house and [achieve an infinite return](#) consistently every month. I am printing money in my home that I can convert to passive income via the stock market.

[What's So Great About Being Independent?](#)

Once you realize that the stock market is not a wealth generator, you can start thinking about the long-term. You can buy solid [dividend-paying blue-chip stocks](#), quality [closed-end funds](#), and [invest in index funds](#) for the long term.

Yes, all the traders around you will be making money on the new hot stock, but how long before they pull their money out? When is the right time for them to take profits? That is what they worry about every night. I wake up and have \$30 dividends from AT&T in my account. Which life seems better to you? Also, which stocks have a better chance to be around to leave to your children?

Real Estate. So many of my friends sell their homes because being [homeowners sucks](#). I get that, but we are here to build a portfolio of long-term assets. We need to keep these properties for the sake of our children. Not only that, we need to own multiple homes.

Here is how I think about being a homeowner; I call it the **Harvest Equity Method**. When you rent properties, you want to break even or turn a small profit. You'll pay fewer taxes on rental income. Once your home has enough equity, you can then convert the equity into cash using debt. You can use a [home equity line of credit or cash-out refinance](#) to extract tax-free cash.

The Harvest Equity Method helps me sleep well at night because I know I am not losing money. I have extracted tax-free money from house number one, and house number two is becoming ripe. House number three is growing in value quickly, so maybe in 3-4 years, we can extract more wealth from this one.

[You'll Need \\$20,000/month is Passive Income](#)

When we extract cash, we invest in more assets, such as properties, dividend stocks, and businesses. We keep the properties and build even more long-term assets as we build wealth slowly.

Cryptocurrencies. Everyone is looking for the next meme coin to make them rich. We had Dogecoin and Shiba Inu during the 2021 season. Yes, one good investment can set you up for life. However, if you made [\\$300,000 in capital gains](#), would you know how to invest it into long-term assets?

Crypto is actually pretty simple. Invest in coins that are the tokens of their own smart chains. These tokens include Ethereum, Polkadot, and Cardano—coins with their own individual smart chains. The more people build out the smart chains, the more coins people use, and the more valuable the tokens.

[Don't Gamble With Your Retirement 4](#)

On top of that, centralized exchanges will pay you significant amounts of interest to invest in these coins. Voyager pays me 12% interest to keep my money in Polkadot (DOT), and the coin price can rise as well.

If you allocate a small amount of money for the meme coin hysteria, that's fine. Ensure you invest the winnings into long-term crypto assets.

Business. We should all have our hands in some sort of business. Whether that is a [home business](#), online or [outside](#), or [content creation](#), we need to be in total control of an income source.

Building a business is one of the best ways to create a long-term asset. We just need to review how we can leave our company to our children. If we start a YouTube channel, how can we leave that to our children?

We may not be able to leave a YouTube channel to our children, but we can write books, online courses, consulting firms, etc., on how we built our channel. In the business world, you have your business, and then you have the “how you created your business” model.

[Create a Never-Ending Stream of Content 2](#)

For example, I am building a book business. Once I reach, say, \$1,000/month in royalty income, I can start writing how I created this income stream. I hazard a guess that more people would be interested in my income stream than my usual books.

I am reading a book about how to start a general contracting company. The author is already a successful general contractor with a large business. Now he can create a second income stream describing how he built a successful contracting business.

You can do the same with sports, marriage, relationships, the military, etc. Talking about your experiences is where the money truly is—as there is always someone who wants to follow in your footsteps. Build a great business model so you can leave it to your children.

[H.E.N.R.Y. -High Earner Not Rich Yet](#)

Conclusion. I could write for days and days, but I don't want to overdo it in one article. This is just the introduction to the idea of building long-term assets. It will be a mindset shift for many people.

When I look at buying a \$60 videogame, I weigh other things I can purchase instead. There is always stock or crypto where I can better spend my money. It is hard to stop thinking in terms of long-term assets.

As you build wealth slowly, your quality of life will improve dramatically. Things like car trouble or air conditioning outages will come and go with little stress. You'll have the resources to handle these situations with little fuss.

[Having less stress](#) and more options is why we build wealth truly, and you'll be able to reap those benefits as soon as you build the right mindset. Please follow me on [Twitter](#) and [my Facebook Page](#) for more investing knowledge. Enjoy and Happy Investing.



The holy grail of any type of investing is achieving an infinite return. I wrote an article yesterday titled "[Understanding Cash on Cash Return](#)," referencing an old article on [the magic of an infinite return](#).

I wrote my last article about an infinite return almost a year ago, so it's about time to jump back into the fray. Today, I want to ensure everyone understands what an infinite return is and how to leverage the process to build lifelong wealth.



[Free 44-Page PDF Download \(\\$2.99 Value\)](#)

What is an infinite return? Put simply, achieving an infinite return means having a cash-producing asset with none of your money invested in that asset.

[You'll Need \\$20,000/Month in Passive Income](#)

In the world of gambling, they call this "playing with house money." If you start playing slots with \$50, you get to \$100; you will play with house money. **However, the important part is taking your original \$50 out of the machine and putting it in your pocket.** We'll talk more about this in a minute.

How I first learned about infinite returns. I first learned about an infinite return when reading "[Rich Dad's Guide to Investing](#)." Robert Kiyosaki is a massive fan of infinite returns and structures most of his investments to achieve infinite status. In his book "[Unfair Advantage](#)," he dives into how he invests in real estate and the power of an infinite return.

The main idea of achieving an infinite return is to not only get your initial investment back but to reinvest into another asset. You can keep building new assets with that initial cash, growing richer each time. This technique is called the [velocity of money](#).

How does an infinite return look in real life? Each asset class has its own version of an infinite return. Your goal of any investment is to achieve an infinite return, and remove your initial investment. Then you can reinvest into the same asset class, or another. Your assets continue to produce income—not bad. Let's look at the different infinite returns across the asset classes.

[How Would You Invest \\$300,000](#)

Stocks. The stock market is the most challenging place to achieve an infinite return, at least in a short time. To accomplish an infinite return with dividend-paying stocks, you would use [the rule](#)

[of 72](#). You can also achieve an infinite return with growth stocks, depending on capital gains. However, you will have to start guessing and using luck. It's tough to predict which growth stocks will be able to double your money in a short amount of time.

Real Estate. The best way to achieve an infinite return is by [renting rooms or house hacking](#). It costs very little to build a rental room asset (\$400-\$500), and you'll make it back the first month. Then every month after that, your room rental is in an infinite return. I have been singing the praises of this method for over a year.

Another way to achieve an infinite return in real estate is by using the "[Buy. Renovate. Rent. Refinance. Repeat](#)" or BRRRR method to extract extreme value from a distressed property. If you can find the right property, renovate it, and refinance for more than your total investment, you'll keep the property. More importantly, you'll have no money invested and walk away with a profit. Amazing! But it's not easy. Please read the article "[Renovate & Rent VS. Fix & Flip](#)" for more.

Cryptocurrencies. The best way to get an infinite return in crypto is using capital gains. If you can buy into the right "young" coins, you may be able to double (2X) your investment very quickly. It's good to use a small portion of your investments for speculation—it may as well be cryptos.

[Do Men Want to be Providers?](#)

Royalties. Royalties are a great way to achieve an infinite return because you'll primarily use creativity, not money, to build your assets. I can write as many books as I want, for free. Each book is its own asset. If I make \$1 off a book, the book is in an infinite return for the rest of its existence. That's why I am a HUGE fan of [royalties and creativity](#)—at least for side income.

Automated Business. When we start an automated business, we want to be very intentional with our purchases. If we buy, say, a rental car (like a Tesla) or an ATM, we want to wait until we get all of our initial investment back before we buy the next one. Don't get greedy and over-extend ourselves; using the process of an infinite return can give us more leverage in the long run.

Putting it all together. There are many ways to achieve an infinite return—understanding how to visualize the process is the most crucial part of achieving investing success.

For example, let's say I bought two identical Pokemon cards for \$400 each. When the value of each card reached \$800, I would sell one card. Now, I have my entire initial investment back in my hand to deploy to another asset.

I never have to worry about the value of my second card going down because I have no money left on the card. I am playing with house money. The next concept is [diversifying my income](#).

I'm too serious. That is all I can say about myself after returning to America from a year abroad. Being 40 years old, I am hyper-focused on financially providing for my parents, wife, kids, and grandkids for the long haul.

Whenever I browse through Facebook, I see other 40-year-olds boating, riding motorcycles, going to theme parks, and traveling. I don't have time for that stuff. I am on the grind, trying to build up my passive income streams.

Once I establish my income streams, then I may have time for some fun things. Don't get me wrong, my wife and I love to sit out back, talk, and drink coffee. In fact, those may be our favorite things to do during the day.

[Don't Gamble Your Retirement Away](#)

I always keep my retirement planning top of mind because I do not want to gamble it away. When we look across our various asset classes, we are forging ahead to ensure we have a good handle on their future success. Let's take a look at where we are heading in each of our asset classes.

- 1) **Financial Mindset.** Yes, your mindset is an asset class—it may be the most important of all asset classes. I will continue to read books and do my book takeaways. I learn something new every day and can use now or combine it with another idea later.
- 2) **Retirement Planning.** I'm still grinding away in the military. Next, I have word that I will be moving to San Diego, California, so I need to start looking into investment opportunities there.
- 3) **Investing.** My wife and I built a \$185,000 dividend portfolio in roughly two years. We have to pause investing for the next few months as we prepare for another opportunity in real estate.
- 4) **Cryptocurrency.** I have about \$8,000 invested in crypto. I haven't had time to launch my DeFi wallet. However, that is a top goal over the next few months.
- 5) **Real Estate.** My wife and I are planning our next home purchase—potentially a new mobile home we can drop on our land in Florida. We will spend the next six months saving \$50,000 for the down payment, so we don't have to liquidate from our dividend portfolio.
- 6) **Business.** I am still grinding away on my books. Amazon did some things that made me rethink my strategy and move my new offerings to my website. More below.

Yes, I am moving my work to my website because we cannot depend on corporations for our long-term success. My goal is to add value by building high-quality pdf ebooks and releasing them for free. I have no idea how to monetize any of this, but I need to add value to the world first.

[Don't Gamble Your Retirement Away 2](#)

In life, we will suffer setbacks—that is a given. How we react, respond, and reflect from these is what gives us **grit**. I see it as a challenge to prove that I can become a source of free knowledge and information through my website.

Now, it's your turn. What do your future income streams look like? What are you doing today that will have ramifications for tomorrow? We don't have to live for tomorrow; that is not the goal. But what activities are you doing today that bring no value to yourself or others?

How can you leverage your time better today, with the intent of building a better tomorrow for your kids and grandkids? America wants you to watch tv, visit sports bars, and party on boats.

I no longer fit into the American mold—I have given up the new American dream. My dream is an old-school American theme where you work hard, take care of your family, and build businesses for long-term viability. I'm traveling back to the old school to have a rock-solid income, without working, and one that I can pass down to my family.

[Don't Gamble Your Retirement Away 3](#)

I choose not to gamble with my retirement today, so I don't have to worry about taxes, inflation, interest rates, housing prices, etc., tomorrow. The more I do today, the more I can pass down to future generations.

I am so proud to include this 100 chapter PDF eBook for free. You cannot release your works anywhere but on Amazon when you enroll in Amazon's Kindle Unlimited program if you don't know. Now, I can bring my works back where they belong, on [Military Family Investing](#).

Please take a copy of this free book. It is many hours of hard work, all thrown into words and artwork, and then concealed in a pdf. Take it to work, put it on your phone, or email it to a buddy—just ensure you understand what your future holds.

The 40-year-olds who are boating, biking, hiking, etc., are gambling with their retirement. They plan to work until age 65-70 and pray everything will work out with their 401K and social security. I have taken matters into my own hands. You should do the same.



39 Don't Gamble with Retirement 5

It's been 95 days since the last article in the Don't Gamble with Retirement series ([part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#), [part 4](#)). Over those 95 days, I have written 116 articles, plus created books and covers for each piece.



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It's been a fantastic ride and one I look forward to continuing for the next 30-40 years. That's why I love writing; it's something I can do at any time and place. Having this freedom of movement is where I am heading in life and retirement.

New processes. During the last 116 articles, I transitioned my new content to books I can give away for free on my website [Military Family Investing](#). I still publish every book to Amazon, but I cannot enter them into the [Kindle Unlimited](#) program.

However, every month I release a few books under the KU program. I can't give these away because of exclusivity rules, but this allows my audience on the KU side of the house to get

fresh content. I also release the [Financial Independence Magazine](#) books under KU every single week. I am now on [issue #51](#).

I am beginning to see some movement within my community—new interest and readership. It's exciting because I am just an average guy who committed himself and his audience to [write 1000+ words every day](#). Wow, those words add up quickly.

The power of compounding. The book "[The Compound Effect](#)" by Darren Hardy talks about the power of compounding. Every word I publish and book I create is a new chance to touch a new person.

My first 100,000 words may not touch this person, but maybe a combination of words number 100,001 through 101,000 can make the most significant impact on them. We are all waiting for that spark that pushes us to make a move to build passive income.

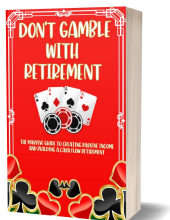
Passive Income. Passive income should be your new word for retirement. We should focus on income, not building a massive nest egg. Passive income is fluid, as well as our retirement planning.

Each income stream we build takes time and education but rewards us with uncorrelated returns for our portfolio. Uncorrelated means that every income stream reacts differently to worldly forces.

For example, my dividend portfolio may tank if we go into another lockdown/pandemic mandate. However, my cryptocurrency portfolio may rise. Also, more people will start a [home business](#), [e-commerce](#), [content creation](#), or [writing blogs](#). Luckily, I have books in all of these categories.

That flexibility is the power of passive income and education. The [core values of passive income](#) are self-education, self-motivation, and self-dedication. Using these values together ensures our wealth and the wealth of our family.

Getting started. If you are just getting started, I recommend that you go back and read all the prior Don't Gamble with Retirement Series. Part 1 and Part 2 are on Kindle Unlimited. I proudly offer part 3 and part 4 (and, of course, Part 5) for free download on my website.



[Don't Gamble with Retirement \(Amazon\)](#)



[Don't Gamble with Retirement 2 \(Amazon\)](#)



[Don't Gamble with Retirement 3 \(Free PDF\)](#)



[Don't Gamble with Retirement 4 \(Free PDF\)](#)

These are huge books, but necessary. If you can finish them all (which 90% of people cannot), then you are well on your way to starting your passive income journey. You will need to train yourself [to read to succeed](#) with passive income.

Conclusion. Welcome to the Don't Gamble with Retirement series. Every time I write these articles, I know that I have poured my heart and soul into words and art. It takes about five hours to create an article and book. So 120 articles equal roughly 600 hours. It takes approximately [10,000 to create an income stream](#).

I am slowly becoming an expert at this game. But, every week I read a new book. Reading has helped me grow my wealth and improve my mindset. I am lucky to have the best wife in the world who lets me write until my heart's content.

You may not become a writer, but something will draw you into its realm. Maybe you become a [wine investor](#) or [sell covered call options](#)—the choices are limitless.

Whatever you choose to do, make a move starting today. The only bad action is inaction.
Thanks for reading, and see you next time!



40 Financial Security vs. Financial Freedom

Today's topic is a deep mindset adjustment that most people will never understand. It's not necessarily their fault because the world trains us to think with a financial security mindset. When you adopt a financial freedom mindset, every single thing in your life changes. But, let's take it from the top.



[Financial Security vs. Financial Freedom](#)

When I was researching this topic, I went back and searched my articles for clues. Yep, I have written so many words that I don't even know what I have in my catalog. I found an early article titled "[Is Becoming Rich Something for You?](#)"

In that article, I profess that there are three levels of wealth: financially secure, financially comfortable, and financially rich. I can still stand by these assertions; however, they represent the physical status of wealth.

[I Live Paycheck to Paycheck 3](#)

Today, we will dig deeper into the mindsets that drive us all. This overarching narrative is how we let our lives unfold, and more importantly, how we push our children into future roles as providers, employees, and spouses.

Let's start with my guess at the definitions of these two mindsets. These are just my take after reading 60 books, watching the world through a different lens, and trying to simplify it all into a few words.

Financial security. The financial security mindset is a state of mind that only relaxes when there is a defined outcome from a financial endeavor. This mindset leans towards fixed income jobs and salaries, savings accounts, education and certificates, pensions, social security, annuities, etc.

Financial Freedom. The financial freedom mindset is a state of mind that only relaxes once it learns how to create money. This mindset leans towards entrepreneurship, the stock market, real estate investing, cryptocurrencies, side-hustles, etc.

As you can see, these are competing mindsets. They are very akin to "[Earned income vs. passive income.](#)" A great question is if you can have both mindsets at the same time?

[\\$1,000 Dividend Spending Spree](#)

The amazing thing about both of these mindsets is that you can carry both of them simultaneously. I know because I am doing it right now. As much as I love entrepreneurship, I am still grinding away at my day job, building a better retirement pension.

It would be selfish of me to run off and become an entrepreneur with a family of four. In fact, I think that life is best spent keeping both mindsets in a continual battle. The most important thing is understanding which mind is in charge at the moment. I wonder if it has something to do with [left brain vs. right brain](#) methods.

Most people (97%) will never break past the financial security mindset. Having a job that pays them \$75,000/year allows them to cram their lifestyle into this salary level. They get a house, car, school, clothes that conform to the amount they make. Then they settle in for the long haul.

[How to Stay Motivated](#)

When it is time for their children to grow up and leave, they pass the financial security mindset on to the children. But, what's happening is that companies no longer give a shit about our children. Jobs, by themselves, have become risky.

[When life gives you lemons, make passive income lemonade](#). Security and Freedom are opposing forces. The person with the \$75,000/year salary thinks that they are free. Yet, they have built their lives around the wage. If they wanted to spend \$100,000 on a six-month trip to Europe, they couldn't. In fact, their mind wouldn't even allow them to fathom taking this trip.

That is the danger of a financial security mindset. You think that you are free, but you are in a prison of your own choosing. The wardens are your job, boss, taxes, debt, time, etc.

[Happiness isn't free](#). To build a financial freedom mindset, you first need to let go of everything you hold dear. College is important, but the [education that can set you free](#) comes from self-education. The book that can rock your mental world is "[Unfair Advantage](#)" by Robert Kiyosaki. If you are having a hard time grasping the different mindsets, start there.

The financial freedom mindset person could also be making \$75,000/year but have an entirely different view of the world. They may be backpacking in Europe or renting a room in a mansion in Vermont, close to the slopes.

You see, financial security and financial freedom is not an income level; it's deeper than that. The main difference is that the financial freedom mindset learns [how to create money](#). Once you know how to do this, your world will change forever.

[Defeat Toxic Consumerism](#)

I was a smart little kid growing up. I got straight As and joined the military. I grinded away for 20 years before I started building my financial freedom mindset. But, here is where I am so blessed to welcome my new view on life—my kids.

My oldest son wasn't the best in school, at least compared to my magical grades. I was very strict on him because he wouldn't survive without good grades, college or military, and playing by the rules—under my financial security mindset.

Today, I know how to create income streams. I can set both of my children up in a house with two renters [paying the entire mortgage](#). If he wants to focus on training dogs, he can [open a dog park](#) to earn passive income while building his dog business.

He can also leverage his love for animals with a blog that helps bring in customers to his dog business. All this, plus he can still work a day job. There are only a few true entrepreneurs that can lean 150% into business at all costs. The rest of us have other factors that motivate us.

[Diversify Your Passive Income](#)

Elon Musk is a serial entrepreneur—he loves the thrill of creating a start-up. It would be disingenuous for the rest of us to think we are that pure at entrepreneurship. The rest of us probably want to achieve freedom of time and money.

That means that we don't have to go all-in as entrepreneurs. We can build enough passive income streams until we free ourselves from our captors—I mean jobs. Then we can focus on what makes us happy.

As we send our kids out, they can be a 50/50 hybrid mentality between security and freedom. That way, they can make \$75,000/year at a job but have \$25,000/year from passive income streams. If their job starts being stupid, they already have things in place that allow them to make a move. I discuss more in [“Can You Achieve Work-Life Balance?”](#) and [“Can You Achieve Work-Life Balance 2.”](#)

In my article [“Welcome to Stress Freedom.”](#) I asked if you could create a \$50/month income stream outside of an earned income job? If you can't, I hope you take these mindsets seriously. Once you learn to create wealth, life takes on a new spin; that is true freedom.

Money doesn't set you free; the ability to create money sets you free. I'll leave it at that for today. I will explore this topic many more times over the next 30-40 years of writing I have left. Sadly, people live in a box out of fear of creating an income stream. I'm reading a book about this fear right now, so more to follow. Enjoy and Happy Investing.



Numbers are amazing. Numbers make the world go round, and many times we are too shy to talk about numbers. We don't want to admit how much we have invested or how much we paid for a house or car. But talking about numbers can be a freeing experience as well.



Accumulate Your First \$100,000

This article is about the financial mindset you need to accumulate your first \$100,000. No, this is not about \$100,000 in your 401K or TSP account. This article is about accumulating your first \$100,000 in liquid assets outside of your employer. First, let's look at my goals from May 2019.

Wells Fargo Savings Goals

Start Date	5/14/2019
Starting Amounts-----	
Custom Management	\$418.06
Way2Save 5436	\$367.79
Way2Save 9659	\$227.00
Goal Date	5/14/2021
Starting Amounts-----	
Custom Management	\$3500.00
Way2Save 5436	\$15000.00
Way2Save 9659	\$3500.00

As you can see, this is about my Wells Fargo savings account in May 2019. Custom Management is my checking account, and I have two savings accounts. My goal for May 2021 (which incidentally was last month) was to have a total of \$21,000 in three accounts.

Wealth is a Mindset

What is important to note is that I didn't have my Wells Fargo brokerage account opened at this time. Indeed, a month after I wrote this note, we went to Turkey, and I learned all about passive income—alas, a story for another day. I opened my Wells Fargo brokerage account in June 2019, so let's look at it today, July 2021.

<p>Brokerage *</p> <p>argo Clearing Services, LLC</p> <p>baccount</p>	<p>\$32,133.25</p> <p>Total account value</p>
<p>Checking</p> <p>ncial confidence</p>	<p>\$1,498.08</p> <p>Available balance</p>
<p>ndary Checking</p>	<p>\$530.00</p> <p>Available balance</p>
<p>t Term Savings</p> <p>e Prequalification</p>	<p>\$55.12</p> <p>Available balance</p>

So you can see that I shattered my goals by a lot. Remember, my total goal was to have \$21,000 across all of my accounts, not just Wells Fargo. Total, my wife and I have \$175,000 in all of our accounts, all accumulated in [less than two years](#).

But, this is an article about financial mindset, so I will give you the most crucial idea about investing a lot of money. **You will have to become a different person to achieve a high level of wealth.**

No, you don't have to change into an asshole. No, you will have to learn to view money and make money in a completely different concept or reality—a reality you do not understand yet. You can't even fathom a reality because your mind can't comprehend the simple complexity of the [power of compounding](#).

[Success is a Habit- What is Your Daily Routine?](#)

You see, not only does interest in your savings and investment accounts compound, your education and mindset compounds as well. When you are hyper-focused on a mission or goal, your mind will get you to this achievement if you keep feeding it information and taking action.

The person who wrote that memo in May 2019 is an entirely different person from today, two years later. The Josh of May 2019 looked at his current savings rate, probably \$800/month, and multiplied it by 24 months. You see how simple that was because I didn't have anything else to bounce off any other ideas. My mind couldn't accept that it could get to \$100,000 in two years.

Two years ago, if you would have told me: that we would have bought another house, refinanced two homes, have five brokerage accounts, have four brokerage accounts for my wife, have a blog and a book business, have two people paying \$800/month each to rent rooms, and be completely debt-free—I would have laughed you off the face of the planet.

There is no way I could have imagined the last two years is in the world of reality. But all of this happened, and I have no idea what the next two years would bring. Kris and I are aiming for \$1 Million by June 2026, so five years from now.

Now back to you. How do you start getting to the spot where you need to be and laying the groundwork to create the wealth and life you deserve? You have to start with a goal. The book "[Think and Grow Rich](#)" is the best book I have read on setting a lifestyle goal based on a belief system that you may not have yet.

The book goes through processing your goal daily and ensuring it is always top of mind. When I read this book, we were \$55,000 in debt and had about \$45,000 in investments. That was less than a year ago. However, as I read it, I knew everything was going to work out.

[Scarcity vs. Abundance](#)

Set a goal that is not in your realm of reality or a possibility that you can think can happen. However, you genuinely have to believe in your plan. We aren't talking magic here; you are going to have to work towards it.

Ensure you share your goal with as many of your family and friends as you can. Most people will laugh at you. That's okay. You will lose most of your friends on your journey anyhow. Misery loves company, and most people will not want to see you succeed. No worries and no skin off of your back. Tell the people you trust the most as well as your spouse or significant other. The book "[Smart Couples Finish Rich](#)" has a lot of good information to help you and your partner sync up on your financial mission.

Now, for the most challenging part of all, and one 95% of people will never get past—**you have to take action**. Yep, that's right, you can't just dream big, and everything flows to you automatically. "But Josh, I don't know how to get started." I know, I know. So I'll help you out a little with my **RDS system**.

My RDS system stands for **Read. Diversify. Share**. This simple system allows you to quickly lay the groundwork for building your empire in the first month. That's right; you will need to accomplish these easy tasks in the first month. Okay, let's review each step.

Read. Easy, read two books in the first month. I am even going to make it easier and give you two short books for free. Every day I host [free books on Amazon](#), grab two of the shorter books, and read them quickly. It doesn't matter what they are. You are going to build a habit of reading—that's the most critical part.

[How Do You Define "Being Rich?"](#)

Diversify. Now we need to diversify where we put our money. We will need to start an investment account and a crypto account. Luckily you can begin both with Cash App. You can set up a Cash App account rather quickly and fund your dividend portfolio with \$20 and your Bitcoin account with \$20. Now, you have investments accounts.

Share. You will need to make money by sharing something of yours. There are tons of ways to do this in today's society. You can rent storage space, rent a room, [rent your car](#), [rent your land](#), [sell veggies](#), [bake a cake](#), [sell it](#), etc. The idea is to create any income outside of your job. Try to make \$20 so that you can fund one of your investment accounts.

Do all three. Yes, you will need to do all three. They are simple tasks, but they are the keys to building wealth. Expanding your mind, investing, and creating business income, are the stepping stones of generating wealth, and most people will not be able to accomplish these small tasks.

Do not get in your own way. Do not let limiting beliefs get into your practice and tell you that you can't finish a book, invest, or share something for income. A year ago, I would have never guessed that I would be writing books and publishing them on Amazon. "No way," I would have told you. Yet, here I am. I sold 35 books in June 2021, exactly two years after learning about passive income.

Month	2021 Goals	Jun 2021
Investment Portfolio	2021 Goals	Jun 2021
Checkings		\$1,000.00
Savings		\$4,730.00
Bonds		\$15,161.00
CryptoCurrency		\$4,555.00
Real Estate		\$6,349.00
Lending Club		\$850.00
Kristina Investments		\$41,028.00
M1 Finance		\$17,704.00
Wells		\$31,713.00
Schwab		\$12,526.00
Stash		\$13,943.00
Cash App		\$20,694.00
Total	\$100,000.00	\$170,253.00

As you complete the first month of tasks, you will be eager to see your first investment gains and see what the new month brings. If you want an easy book to read, follow my [Financial Independence Magazine series](#). I release a magazine for free every Friday, and they are roughly 40 pages long. If you keep reading those, you will see improvements in your thought processes.

Oh yeah, I forgot, I have a free book you can download [right here in PDF format](#). It is 120 pages, but you can get through it in a day or so. This is an excellent place to start building the proper mindset and some tools for retirement planning, investing, real estate, crypto, and business.

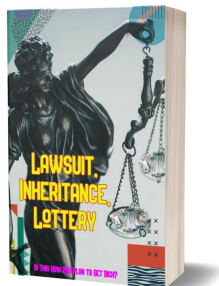
Hopefully, you have a fundamental place to start your journey. You can do it if you believe you can do it. Don't forget that you can join my [Facebook group](#) where I have the Cash App challenge (see all 45 weeks [on Pinterest](#)) and follow my [Facebook Page](#), where I post my new articles every day. Yep, I write [1000+ words every single day](#). Enjoy and Good Investing.



42 Lawsuit, Inheritance, Lottery

Is this a funny title to you? It may sound a little weird, but these are the three ways that most people plan on becoming wealthy: lawsuit, inheritance, or lottery. “Why don’t people just earn their own money to become rich,” you ask? Because that would take effort.

These methods seem humorous from the outside, but once you start dealing with many “regular” people, you will begin to see these trends forming. My wife Kristina and I had never met anybody like this until we started landlording.



[Lawsuit, Inheritance, Lottery](#)

And sure enough, almost every single person we met as a landlord had these goals in their mind. If I throw in social security, we would have 100% coverage of our tenants. Let's look over some examples.

[Become CEO of Your Life](#)

Lawsuit. Lawsuits were the biggest segment of our tenants. They all had some kind of medical or car accident that they were pursuing. If not those two, then it was some form of a legal battle with their ex-spouse. The funny part is, most of their ex-spouses had paid a decent amount of money to them; they just wanted more. They never learned how to control their money correctly.

Inheritance. You will see this more in the workforce. You will see people drifting aimlessly through their work performance, not goals in sight. Chances are, you are busting your butt, trying to get promoted, and these people just coast along.

However, if you start to ask them questions, everything they speak about involves their parents. They will talk about their parent's homes, boats, and investments. Listen for these clues and look over their work motivation, and you will ascertain that they are just waiting for their part of the fortune.

Lottery. You don't see lottery players too much in the military, but you will see many of these in the civilian world. Every day, people will go into the gas station buying 5-10 tickets. We would see 2-4 people every visit purchase lottery tickets, alcohol, and cigarettes at our favorite gas station. I am not judging because I love some alcohol, but how can they afford this stuff?

Is this how you plan to get rich? I ask this question because these are honestly how 90% of people plan to get rich. I am estimating these numbers, but here are some other facts to go off of.

[Become CEO of Yourself](#)

Only 3% of Americans will reach \$1 million in liquid investments. This means that they will have \$1 million in an investment account, gold, silver, or other investments outside of their house.

Many people say they are millionaires because they have \$1 million of equity in their homes. This is very nice to have, but you can't spend it from your house. It is not an ATM that spits out money.

The other 7% will have enough from pensions, 401Ks, and social security to live a remarkable life during retirement. So, that leaves 90% who will need to have some form of "boost" to fund their lifestyles.

If you think these numbers are bogus, then you haven't dealt with many people outside of your circle. I have met people living off of \$700/month disability checks. If that check dried up, so would they. It isn't a pretty picture.

[How to Start Dividend Investing 101](#)

Perhaps one of the reasons I am working so hard in my military career, real estate, business, and investing is that I have seen the other side. I have seen the extreme side of people sleeping in their cars, living beyond [paycheck to paycheck](#), and depending on the government just to live.

If you depend on social security, it is not any better for your future. First, your social security check was never meant to replace your working income; it was meant as a "small" supplement to that. Perhaps a 20-30% supplement to what you were making in your working years.

Second, there is no guarantee that social security will be around for any amount of time. Those few wealthy people who have money are doing everything in their power to remove money from the "have nots." That is just the way things go.

What can you do to change your future? Thankfully, you do not have to be someone waiting for a lawsuit judgment, inheritance, lottery, or social security. You can do something about it now, today, and never look back.

I do not care what age you are; you can take steps to set you on the best path forward. Indeed, even if you create an income stream from dividends for \$200/month, that is a tremendous amount of money.

What can you buy with \$200/month coming in passively? You may be able to buy some luxuries like Netflix or stop and get a couple more coffees throughout the month. You don't have to start with a considerable income stream; it can be little patches of money that make all the difference. The people I have met would cry tears of joy for \$50/month of income.

Let's take a look at how we can build a quick \$1,500/month passive income stream from various methods of business, real estate, investing, and cryptocurrencies.

[CryptoCurrency 108: What are DAOs](#)

Real estate. First and foremost, you will need to rent out a [room in your house](#). This will net you \$600/month and will be the backbone of your passive income journey. Real estate is the best wealth generator for beginners.

Business. Next, you will build out a small business to net you \$500/month. This can be [renting out a car](#), [becoming a content creator](#), or [writing ebooks](#). Give yourself 1-2 years to earn this amount of money properly. You want to build a strong base of knowledge to make your income stream as solid as possible. No easy money here.

Investing. We want to get to \$400/month in dividend income. We can use the money from our room rental to fund our dividend portfolio. If we had our money in a [closed-end fund](#) that pays 9% monthly, like the Pimco Income Fund (PCI), we would need roughly \$55,000. Of course, we want to diversify, but \$55,000 is more than achievable in two years. My wife and I went [from -\\$77,000 to +\\$150,000](#) in less than two years. You might be able to also.

[Pay for College with Real Estate 102: Buy a House, Sell a House](#)

Cryptocurrencies. To further diversify, we can extract our last \$100/month from crypto. We can put some money into a [safe, stablecoin](#) like USDC and get a 9% return. We would need roughly \$14,000 in our USDC portfolio.

There you have it, a \$1,500/month simple passive income portfolio. Oh, you think that this looks too simple? Well, is it supposed to be hard? The most challenging part is getting the information to get everything set up. Then it just requires discipline. The harder you grow it now, the more [you can relax later](#).

My wife and I are at \$3,000/month in passive income, outside of a military pension. This money comes from renting rooms (\$1,600), renting houses (\$900), dividends (\$500), and royalties (\$70). We are 40 years old. We have 25, 30, 40 years to grow this amount to a ridiculous stream, bigger than we can imagine. We have been doing this for exactly two years. I am just saying.

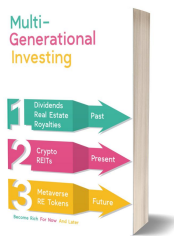
Here is an excellent place to start, my retirement at any age series. Find your age group and read these short books, or you can read all the age groups in one nice-sized book. Retirement At Any age articles ([20s](#), [30s](#), [40s](#), [50s](#), [60s](#), [70s](#), [Any Age](#)), book formats (20s, 30s, 40s, [50s](#), [60s](#), [70s](#), [Any Age](#)).

Please don't limit yourself to winning a lawsuit, inheritance, or lottery. There is a better way to live and prepare for the future. As you build passive income, your everyday life will improve, as well as your future retirement. It's truly a win, win situation. Good Luck!



43 Multi-Generational Investing

Becoming rich isn't as difficult as people make it seem. Basically, you need to stay out of debt, live below your means, and invest your money. Every dollar you earn should have a mission to make you more dollars.



Multi-Generational Investing

My parents raised me to work hard for money and pay expenses, and the rest is yours to spend freely. But the [truth of discretionary income](#) is that you should only spend the money that returns from investments.

As I become a more advanced investor, I realize specific quirks about my investing style. I am getting rich the way people have always gotten rich—dividends, royalties, and physical real estate.

[Start an Automated E-Commerce Business](#)

Also, I am focusing on the current cycle of new investments such as cryptocurrencies and real estate investment trusts. Finally, I look towards the future for the next era of investing. This future includes real estate tokenization, the metaverse, and virtual real estate.

It's incredible when you put all these different eras of investing together. I am having fantastic success from the old style of investing. I love counting my dividends every month. My crypto portfolio stands to outperform in 2022. And, I am looking into how to leverage the metaverse going into the next few years.

Putting all these investing styles together means that I do not have to be super successful in any way in particular. [Building wealth slowly](#) implies that I do not have to take unnecessary risks. I can live smartly, invest wisely, and get rich slowly. There is nothing better than seeing your net worth rising every month.

Now, let's take a look at each of these investing styles in detail. Hopefully, you can take away some priorities of investing for today and tomorrow. Start by focusing on what people did yesterday to become rich because you can follow what has been proven to work.

YESTERDAY

People in the past didn't have access to all the bells and whistles we have today. Investing in the stock market required a broker, and they didn't have Zillow to compare real estate at home. Use these tools to become rich. Investing in yesterday will make you rich without a doubt. Here is the blueprint.

[Write Product Reviews for Passive Income](#)

Dividends. Investing in safe, reliable dividend-paying blue-chip stocks will make you rich over time. We call this [dividend growth investing](#). Some of the best ways to set yourself up for the future are through dividend growth investing and dollar-cost averaging. The earlier you start, the better off you'll be in the long run.

Real Estate. Buying just one home makes you a real estate investor—with the [right mindset](#), of course. Use [whatever it takes](#) to get into a home, then [house-hack](#) to get your [mortgage down to zero](#). You'll become rich very quickly when you don't have any housing expenses.

Royalties. Everyone should have some sort of income from creativity. Whether that is YouTube, [writing](#), music, or [selling creativity](#), royalties can help you earn money while you sleep. The [power of royalties](#) is that they don't cost much money to create.

TODAY

In the current environment, technology is king. Cryptocurrencies will be the wave of the future due to decentralized finance. If you want to ensure you invest for tomorrow, you must learn crypto today.

[Financial Independence through Real Estate 2](#)

Cryptocurrencies. Crypto is confusing, intimidating, and scary for most people. You can't let that fool into thinking that it isn't revolutionary. At the most basic level, you can [invest for interest](#). You can also capture the capital gains while your coins pay you interest. Here is a quick guide on getting [started with cryptocurrencies](#).

Real Estate Investment Trusts. Even though we love our physical real estate, we want to diversify our portfolio using REITs. REITs allow us to take advantage of diverse sectors of the housing market while collecting our rent payments in the form of dividends. Dollar-cost-averaging into REITs can make us wealthy over the long run. Here is a [small guide to REITs](#).

TOMORROW

We don't know what tomorrow brings, so as investors, we need to make educated guesses. Currently, I see the metaverse as the new frontier of wealth. We need to learn how to leverage the metaverse and its virtual real estate to ensure our children's wealth. Also, buying tokenized real estate may be the next big thing in physical real estate.

[How to Create Passive Income 104: For the Average Person](#)

The Metaverse. The Metaverse will usher in a new gold rush of digital goods and services. Almost everything we do in reality, the metaverse will reflect inside its digital worlds. Those who try to resist will be left behind. Understanding the landscape of virtual real estate will take time and investing knowledge. Here is a small guide to [the Metaverse and cryptocurrencies](#) and how they support one another.

Real Estate Tokenization. The blockchain is what keeps the world of crypto pumping. Everything that happens in crypto takes place on the blockchain. So, when people start selling portions of physical real estate via the blockchain, it could be a huge game-changer. Now, more people than ever will have access to real estate outside of REITs and the stock market. Here is a small guide on [Real Estate Tokenization](#).

[Dividends vs. Capital Gains 2](#)

Conclusion. I want to keep this short so that you can focus on each of these vital investing segments. Becoming a well-rounded millionaire means understanding the past, present, and future.

The past, present, and future all guarantee your long-term success—learn all of them, and you'll be unstoppable. Those who stop learning won't survive long in this information-based world. Plus, it's fun to invest!

Please join my [Facebook Group](#) if you want the latest articles and free books delivered to your news feed. Also, you can contact me inside the group and ask questions. I also have a [Facebook Page](#) where you can see my latest articles.



44 Orange You Glad You Have Passive Income?

Ahh, passive income is the wind beneath my sails. It is the warm blanket on those cold winter nights **AND** the air conditioning during those hot desert afternoons. Passive income is helpful throughout life—that's why we go out of our way to build passive income streams.



[Free 50-Page PDF Download \(\\$2.99 Value\)](#)

This article is my second foray into fruit-based literature. My first piece is titled "[When Life Gives You Lemons...Make Passive Income Lemonade.](#)" I just finished an article on [creativity and design](#) where I mentioned that I got the idea for these articles after seeing the fantastic photos.

Passive income is great for all kinds of life events, so let's recap some of how I use passive income.

[The Business of Being Busy](#)

Inflation. This may be the place where passive income helps us out the most. Having even an extra \$200-\$400/month coming in passively can be a huge help as our grocery store visits become costlier.

I have a nice series of articles [covering how passive income](#) can help us survive the coming inflation bubble. The government says inflation will not stick around, but we know otherwise.

Emergencies. [Murphy's Law](#) states that whatever can go wrong will go wrong. When you are low on funds, expect things to go wrong. I remember having insufficient funds, and our car had a \$2,000 problem—not fun.

As I wrote in "[What Limiting Beliefs Do You Have About Money.](#)" it's not your money's fault that you had a spell of bad luck. Don't get mad about it—just learn how to make more. Having a passive income is like a sword and shield versus a dragon named "Emergency."

Fun. Of course, my favorite use case for passive income is having fun. Why not use passive income to treat you and your family to dinner and a movie? My wife and I were planning on a [\\$1,000 dividend shopping spree](#) during Black Friday, but we are now looking into buying our fourth home. We will have to postpone the joy ride until we clear the home.

[I'm Too Serious](#)

Many months ago, I wrote "[How the Rich Buy Their Bling.](#)" where I stated the rich use the income from investments to buy luxury items. I also dug into the topic more in "[How to Start Dividend Investing 102: Set Small Goals.](#)"

Passive income starts like a small snowball. The more time, work, and compounding takes place, the bigger the ball becomes. Eventually, you want to live off the massive snowball.

How do you get started with passive income? Now that we know that extra cash is a great thing to have (duh?)—how do we get started? I recommend you pick the income stream that interests you the most and begins there.

The various income streams are **retirement income** (410K, Roth IRA), **investing** (stocks, bonds), **cryptocurrencies** (interest, staking), **rental income** (homes, rooms), and **business** (royalties, automated business).

The idea is to start with what you think you will enjoy learning. Get deep into that passive income stream. You may be uncomfortable—that means you are doing something right.

[Don't Gamble With Retirement 4](#)

For each of my income streams, I felt uncomfortable when beginning. These moments include dividend investing, buying treasuries, purchasing homes 1-3, opening my crypto account, releasing my first book, and joining the Marine Corps.

To get to your final destination, you will have to put yourself out there—sorry, those are the ropes. In “[Rich Dad's Guide to Investing](#),” Robert Kiyosaki says that there are no risky investments, only risky investors. I wholeheartedly agree.

I don't gamble in the stock market because I am not trying to get rich from stocks. I am looking to earn a 4% dividend yield from my portfolio—that's all. When I want to make big bucks, I rent rooms because that money is [in an infinite return](#).

I am not losing money on my book business because everything I do is free. I do my own artwork and writing. I also don't advertise at the moment. If I had sunk tons of money into hiring artists and writers, I'd probably be poor by now. I am using the old technique called “sweat equity.”

When I invest in cryptocurrencies, I invest for interest from my coins. Capital appreciation is excellent, but I am not chasing mega gains. I'll take my 9% interest from USDC and 7% from VGX while I wait for crypto to rebound.

[21 Passive Income Ideas](#)

Once you learn your passive income stream inside and out, time to learn another one. I am currently in the process of learning [how to sell covered calls](#). This will give me “synthetic dividends” and help me earn more cash from my stock positions.

There are ways to [increase your rental income](#) and make [passive income from decentralized finance](#) in the world of cryptocurrencies. There are so many ways to make money that you can find ways to make money for a living.

It all comes back to you. Do you want to have multiple streams of income? There are two ways to build passive income. First, convert your earned income into investment income. Second, convert your free time into grind time.

Converting your earned income into investment income involves learning about stocks, bonds, dividends, interest, crypto, real estate, etc.

Converting your free time into [passive income grind](#) time consists of building royalties via music, videos, writing, and art and starting an automated business in your spare time.

[Passive Income for Christmas](#)

Again, you will be uncomfortable in this new world of passive income. 95% of people cannot make the leap into the new mindset. The book "[Mindset](#)" talks about the fixed mindset and the growth mindset. To build passive income, you will need to achieve a growth mindset. If you are serious about your journey, give that book a read.

Conclusion. Building passive income is more complicated in your mind than it is in real life. Most people don't want to give up their sports time, boats, cars, and vacations. They also don't want to read, write, and take notes. Will you be like them?

The saying goes, "**Do what everyone does, and get what everyone gets.**" After you turn 40, you will start to see the writing on the wall. Everyone wants to show off their new toys, homes, and vacations. However, they will be working until they are [65-70 years old](#).

If that is what you want, to work for 40+ years and still be on a small fixed income, go right ahead. I want to be rich, young, and happy. I want to ensure my children have houses, my grandkids are homeschooled, and their wives have the option to stay home with their children.

This future takes knowledge and wealth. I don't want to be like everyone else. We may all look like oranges on the outside, but I look like passive income on the inside.



45 Passive Income for Christmas

Christmas is a place for celebration and time with family. Celebrating Christmas is even better when you have the financial resources to assemble the family in one place. Christmas is costly because of distance, plane tickets, event planning, and of course, gifts.



Passive Income for Christmas

I'll admit, I am not a huge fan of giving gifts, but I love the idea of bringing the family together. I'll be honest, America is freaking expensive. Everything costs a ton of money, and if you don't prepare yourself for the prices, you can have a real-money relapse.

I spent the last year locked in my barracks room in Japan, and upon my return to America, I was in a state of sticker shock. We spend hundreds of dollars on a weekly basis, with not much to show for the money. Lunch and dinners out are pricey, and we need to keep these under control.

If we want to get ahead, especially in America, we need to have a lot of money. However, we value time with our families. How can we make more money **WHILE** spending more time with our families? [The Magic of Passive Income](#) is the answer—we need to separate our time from the process of making money.

Passive income comes to us while we are doing other things throughout the day. We may wake up to find fresh dividends in our bank accounts. While we play with kids at the park, royalties may drop into our cash pile. Our tenants may pay us before a big family dinner. Passive income is a tool to help free us from the daily grind.

I am writing this a little early for Christmas because that will give you a couple of months to build a small income stream. Even if you build \$5 of passive income before Christmas, you will be well on your way to having a huge Passive Income Christmas next year. Let's review the types of Passive Income so we can start our journey.

Dividends. Dividends are a portion of the profits from companies with which you own stock. Read "[The Magic of Dividends](#)" for more on how important dividends are to our day-to-day lives. To get started with dividends, read "[How We Plan to Retire on Dividends](#)."

Rents. We receive rental income from tenants, storage, and other sources. Rental income is one of the best ways to build a passive income empire. Read "[The Magic of Rents](#)" for more on

how rents can propel you to the next level. To get started with rental income, read "[Financial Independence through Real Estate.](#)"

Business. I like to split my passive income from business into two categories; **royalties, and an automated business.** Royalties come when someone buys your creative or intellectual works. These include books, music, videos, and artwork (even print on demand). Read "[The Magic of Royalties](#)" for more on how royalties help throughout the daily grind.

An automated business is a business that is automated via programs and apps, out-sourcing, or management. You set everything else and then have minimal interaction with the business. Business is a great way to make out-sized returns over time. Read more about this here "[The Magic of an Automated Business.](#)" You can read more about both types of businesses in the article "[Retire Rich, Retire Comfortable with a Business.](#)"

If you really want to learn about passive income in one resource, try "[The Biggest Book on Passive Income Ever!](#)" At the time, it had every article I had ever published in one big book. I have already written 70 more pieces since then. What can I say—I love the [Passive Income Grind.](#)

I can't forget about cryptocurrencies. I am new to the world of crypto, but as I read books and study more on the topic, I will bring you everything I know. You can start with "[My First Book on Cryptocurrencies.](#)"

Where ever you start, start small. Passive income isn't supposed to take over your life on the first day. It is slow, steady progress. But if done right, you will see great returns in a year or so. I went from less than a dollar a month of dividend income to \$500/month in two years.

\$500/month may not sound like a lot, but trust me, it's massive. My wife and I went to Buffalo Wild Wings, Sushi, and Home Depot with our \$500 this month. It is so exciting to have guilt-free cash at the ready.

This is not to mention the \$800/month we clear after paying all three of our mortgages. By the way, my royalties are bringing in \$50/month. I had zero royalty income at the beginning of this year.

2021 may not be your most significant passive income Christmas, but you can set the stage for your family to celebrate these times in comfort (and style) for the rest of their lives. Everything you learn about passive income transfers to your children as you educate them. It sounds corny, but make this the Christmas of Education. We all deserve a Passive income Christmas!



46 What is Your Rich Life 2?

Wow, I can't believe it has been one year since I wrote part one of "[What is Your Rich Life?](#)" Now is a perfect time to re-evaluate our core values and what is important to us. Over the last year, I know I have been laser-focused on setting my family up for success in the future.



[What is Your Rich Life?](#)

I wrote part one about three weeks into my one-year tour in Japan. I had just read my first book, "[I Will Teach You to be Rich.](#)" and I was getting my financial house in order. I stayed in that same barracks room from August 14th, 2020, to August 1st, 2021.

Finally, I returned home to my beautiful wife and kids, enjoying everything about being home. Yes, it was a waste of a year and forgettable—except for a couple of things.

[Become Insanely Productive During the Magic Hours](#)

During the year apart, my wife and I stayed closer than ever. We went through a lot of hardships in each of our locations. I had a couple of massive typhoons; she had [Hurricane Sally](#) come through Florida and wreck all kinds of havoc on the coast and our house.

We had termites attack house #2, and we refinanced house #1—which was a complete nightmare. We refinanced house #3 and dealt with a crazy plumbing leak that turned out to be the water company stealing our water. It has been a crazy year.

Through it all, we focused on our relationship. I can easily say that Kris (my wife, short for Kristina) and I are closer, being thousands of miles apart than most couples are in the same room. I don't know if that is something to be proud of or feel sorry for others about.

[Retire Early as a Well-Rounded Millionaire](#)

My main takeaway from the forgotten year is that we got [completely out of debt](#), built our [dividend portfolio up to \\$190,000](#), and started a [passive, automated business](#). I am so glad that I started my business; otherwise, it would have truly been a lost year in Japan.

Now, with my passive business in tow, I can enjoy family time more than ever. We make money while we sleep, and it is great to see this in action. My family and I drove to Alabama to do some shopping and went to Buffalo Wild Wings.

We used dividends to pay for the \$80 meal there, and it was good to have a meal knowing that it was paid for by investments. My business had produced \$4 of revenue from books sales, [affiliate sales](#), and advertisements on my blog by the time we got home. It was the perfect day to showcase the magic of passive income, especially when it comes to spending time with family.

[Good Debt vs. Bad Debt](#)

Over the last year, I have learned that you need to control your time to spend time with family honestly. You have to buy your freedom with passive income—[to truly be free](#). There just isn't any other way to enjoy your family to this degree.

Yes, my wife and I still work [our earned income jobs](#), but that's okay. We have 5-8 more years left at these jobs and no more jobs for the rest of our lives. I am [40 years old](#), and my wife is a couple of years younger than me, so retiring under [50](#) will be amazing.

My wife and I both started from the dirt with no assets. So being able to turn the tables and grind up to three homes, a \$190,000 dividend portfolio, and produce 150+ books (and counting), has been an awe-inspiring ride. Even better, we still have a lot more to go.

Now, I turn the focus to you. Did you notice I did not say my rich life required cars, boats, or vacations? I ask you know, **what is your rich life?** How do you envision your future love life, children, and locations?

[Hustle in Your 20s and 30s, Enjoy Your 40s and 50s](#)

I can envision my rich life in great detail, and this vision has helped me through the passive income grind. I became a [Passive Income Hero](#) by night because of the future I want to create with my wife, kids, and grandkids.

My rich life consists of my wife, kids, and grandkids sitting on a white sand beach having a merry time. No one worries about work or money; everything is taken care of—we only need to focus on enjoying our family time.

As the provider, I need to ensure that I can handle all of the financial matters from the beach and make money from there. I want the lightest laptop currently available, and I want to make cash passively from the beach. I want [real mailbox money](#) coming in from rents, royalties, and dividends.

And when I need to work, I can do everything from my light Chromebook. If you notice the cover art of my article "[The Ultimate Chromebook](#)," it is a picture of how I envision my rich life. It was no accident that I put the Chromebook on the beach.

I understand what is required to be on that beach with no worries, financial or otherwise. To achieve [Stress Freedom](#), we need to release ourselves from the [bonds of consumerism](#). But to do this is going against the grain.

Do you have what it takes to dream a different version of your Rich Life? When you start down a [path of minimalism](#) and shun materialism, people will laugh at you. I drive a 2012 Ford Focus, and everyone rolls around in huge SUVs. I can't let that bother me.

[Don't Let School Interfere with Your Education](#)

I know that my wife and I have \$9,000-\$10,000/month in free cash flow after expenses. That is true freedom, not driving an SUV with a boat attached. Our only job now is to produce this same excess cash flow without working a job. That is why I am on the passive income grind.

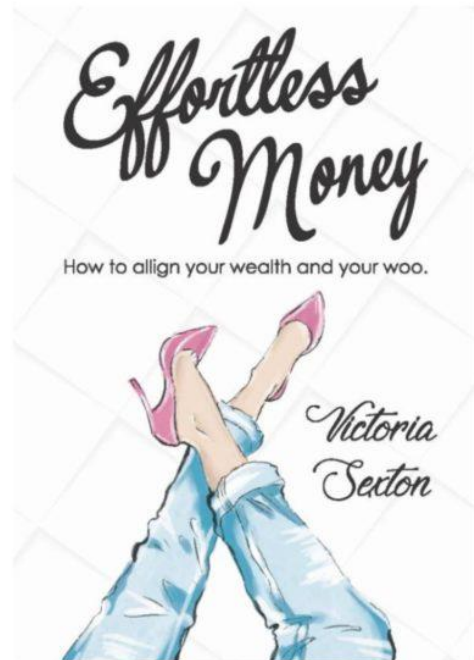
And yes, I know that my articles are some variation of the same dream, goal, or end state, but we need to repeat and reinforce these things to ourselves daily. The book "[Think and Grow Rich](#)" tells us that our daily routine must help us re-align our values—so I'll keep repeating the same ethos; **wealth is having excess income to expenses**. Make a lot of money and spend humbly.

Conclusion. That was my rich life, in a nutshell. Nothing had changed from my vision a year ago. Being back in America has shown me that my dream, and image of the future, are stronger than ever. I only have to travel my path, which differs from the American dream.

What is your rich life? More importantly, how can being debt-free, starting a business, and building passive income streams get you there? Those are the questions you need to ask yourself—**TODAY**. There is no more time to waste. My wife and I set ourselves free [in less than two years](#), so I know that it is possible to release yourself as well. I have [a ton of resources](#), so please use whatever you need. Enjoy and Happy Investing.

BOOK TAKEAWAYS

5 Takeaways



47 “Effortless Money”

“[Effortless Money](#)” by Victoria Sexton is a book about the psychology of money. It may sound strange, but how you view money actually relates to how money flows to you. I know, I know, it sounds ridiculous.

I totally believe in all this because I experienced a cash windfall once I transitioned to an abundance mindset. The book covers the difference between an abundance mindset and a scarcity mindset.

You can instantly recognize people with a scarcity money mindset. They pinch every penny, never share, and always say that they don’t have enough money. They don’t think the universe is on their side.

Those with an abundance mindset volunteer, give to others and don't stress the details. They may have to use their credit card during an emergency, but they know the money will flow to them.

Recently, our water bill went up 500%. The plumbers told us it was a leak under the house and would cost upwards of \$20,000. I prepared for the worse and started to research insurance solutions and loans.

I never got too excited or stressed. If all else failed, I would pull from my bond portfolio. It turns out our water company was stealing our water for a construction site nearby. I used my abundance mindset to remain calm and see the outcome through. This stuff works for people. Let's get into my five takeaways.

[I Bought a Kindle Oasis](#)

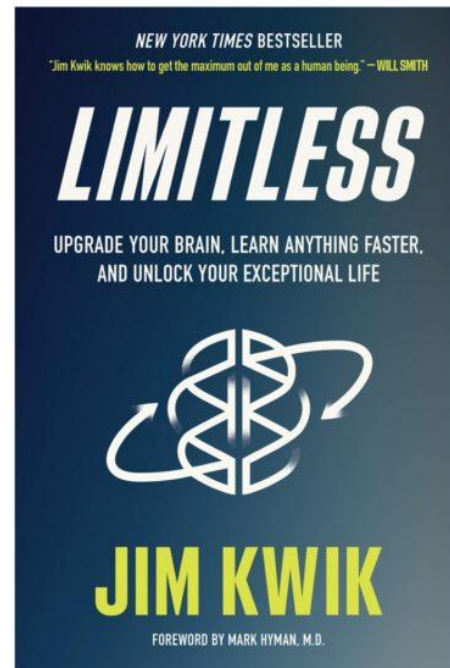
- 1) Somewhere along the lines, it became not fun to be an adult. This was my favorite line from the book. People avoid owning rental properties, stocks, and starting businesses because it sounds uncool or like a lot of work. However, this is how you get to do the cool things in life.
- 2) Believe that the universe is on your side. No matter how you grew up, ultimately, it is on you to make peace with the universe and your money mindset. Your mindset is vital to financial and spiritual growth.
- 3) Give gratitude to everything that comes your way. The universe wants to help those who are thankful for the assistance. I know that my wife and I appreciate everything the universe throws our way. If you have shelter, food, clothes, and family, life is good.
- 4) Money stress leads to more money stress. You will need to learn how to stop stressing the little things in life. The obstacles that the universe puts in our way are not our money's fault. We need to stop blaming our money and get money for our team.
- 5) Visualization can help you connect with your future self and lead you to a prosperous outcome. I know what my rich life entails; the beach with my family while collecting passive income from multiple sources. This helps drive my day-to-day actions.

It may sound weird to connect your mindset with your money, but it is a vital tool many successful people use daily. I believe in every word that the book discusses, and almost every book I have read over the last year has a similar outlook.

Give this book a try if you are struggling financially. Your financial mindset is more important than the numbers. A great read!

[This link is to a physical product. The link above is to the digital book. Sorry. I get no credit for digital product links.](#)

5 TAKEAWAYS



48 “Limitless”

“[Limitless](#)” by Jim Kwik was not even on my radar. A Marine Officer at my work randomly approached me and started talking up the book. I guess he did an excellent job because I went home that night and began reading it.

It is a life-changing book that is based on meta-learning. Meta-learning is the art of learning how to learn. The author had a bad accident when he was younger, and it slowed down his learning. Over the years, he decided to take back control of his life by becoming a great learner.

This book consists of everything he learned, from exponential thinking, speed-reading, and unique memorization techniques. And I can say from using these techniques first-hand that they work. That is why the Marine Officer was so excited to share this book with me. Let me get into my five takeaways before I get carried away.

1) The new digital age is a great time to be alive, and more information has been created in the recent few years than in the history of the world before it. But it can lead to the four negatives of digital life: digital deluge (too much information), digital distraction, digital dementia (forgetting how to remember), and digital dedication (can’t draw your own conclusions).

2) Being Limitless comes down to five methods that we should hone in on focus, study, memory enhancement, speed reading, and critical thinking. Using all these methods together will make you limitless and maximize your time, information, and learning.

3) The first step in becoming Limitless is freeing your **mindset**. Our limiting beliefs are strong (negative) ideas placed in our brains over the years. First, we need to identify our limiting beliefs and stop them from interacting with our conscious and subconscious selves.

4) The next step in becoming Limitless is **motivation**. This is your “why,” and it is what gets you up and excited about every day. If you have a “why,” you are more likely to retain information, make informed decisions, and seek more guidance. It controls everything in your day-to-day operations.

5) The last step in becoming Limitless is **methods**. This step is where the different techniques of speed-reading, memorization, and critical thinking come into play. The ways are simple and easy to follow. But they are incredibly effective because you must continually practice them to become effective.

I'll be honest; I wanted to skip to the methods section to learn all the cool tricks. But, I am glad I read through the book in its entirety. By the time I got to the good stuff, my mind and motivation were primed and ready to go.

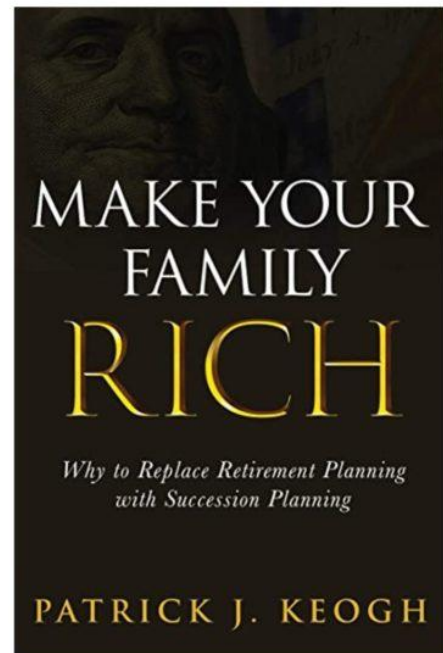
The book is worth a read just for the methods section; however, don't sell yourself short. He has done a ton of research concerning the brain, dieting, gut feelings, decision-making, etc. It is in your best interest to download this information into your brain.

He even teaches some fantastic exercises like remembering ten random words in less than a minute, taking cold showers daily, and writing down your dreams. It is just an overall helpful book that will stretch your brain.

I highly recommend this book to everyone, whether you think you are operating at your highest capacity or not. I think everyone stands to gain from this book and walk away as a more focused, determined individual—a must-read.

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5 Takeaways



49 “Make Your Family Rich”

“[Make Your Family Rich](#)” by Patrick Keogh is a fantastic book about one of my favorite topics, generational wealth. The premise of the book is not to build wealth for retirement but your family estate.

The book then shows us various ways to build wealth. I will list some different methods in the five takeaways. Overall, I learned so much throughout the book. I now need to start integrating my children into our estate plans.

In the book, the author makes his children and grandchildren the board of directors, as he is the CEO of the family estate. He then meets with them monthly to discuss investments, real estate, and partnerships.

He now feels that when he passes, the family has a solid plan to keep the assets under control, and more importantly, to continue his life’s work. I agree that leaving our estate to well-trained, highly-educated children is in all of our best interests. Let’s look at my five takeaways.

1) Only invest in Dividend Champions (DC). DCs are companies that have increased their dividend for over 25 straight years.

2) Get to know your DCs. Some of my favorites are Walmart, McDonald’s, and Procter & Gamble. You own these companies, so be proud of their products.

3) Don't buy DC's straight from the stock market; sell puts to get these DCs at the lowest possible price and highest possible yield.

4) Hands-on real estate is time-consuming, and finding good property managers is even more challenging. Real estate is vital to wealth but also consider investing in REITs.

5) Invest in community banks because it helps you obtain loans. Also, they can be bought by bigger banks, increasing your return on investment.

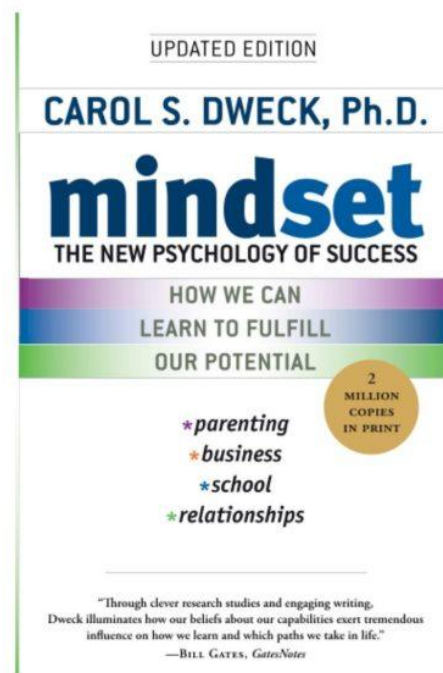
Making your family rich is not just about buying stocks and real estate. It is going from an investment plan to a retirement plan, and then from an estate plan to a succession plan. To succeed, your children need to know the ins and outs of your family company.

Selling cash-secured puts to buy DCs is something that I never heard about but is very interesting. You will need a good amount of cash on hand to do this; however, it allows you to buy the best stocks at bargain-basement prices. I'll break down his technique in a separate article.

After reading this book, I am eager to start bringing my kids into the fold of our family business. Our business is young, but we have learned a lot, so the sooner I get them involved, the better. I loved reading this book and finished it in record time. If you are serious about your family's future, then I highly recommend picking this book up.

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5 Takeaways



50 “Mindset”

“[Mindset](#)” by Carol S. Dweck explores why some people seek a challenge and overcome failure in life, while others avoid difficult situations at all costs. This book is a must-read for those on the journey to entrepreneurship.

The two mindsets are fixed mindset and growth mindset, and they play a role in every action we perform in life. Our mindsets control how we view the world and ourselves. In a nutshell, those with a fixed mindset feel that talent and intelligence are set from birth. Those with a growth mindset believe hard work and perseverance lead to major accomplishments.

The fixed mindset can be dangerous to the learning process because people often quit once their natural abilities can't perform at higher levels. Those with a fixed mindset will then shift blame, make excuses, or avoid challenges to ensure they give themselves a reason for their failure.

Those with a growth mindset seek challenges and feed on failure. Failing still sucks, but they understand that it is a natural evolution of growth and achievement. Failing is vital to becoming an entrepreneur and also building passive income streams. Let's take a look at my five takeaways.

- 1) You can transition to a growth mindset over time. The first step is learning about the two mindsets and making a conscious effort to identify when you exhibit behavior consistent with a fixed mindset.
- 2) The two mindsets play a role in relationships as well. Those with a fixed mindset seek partners that automatically admire them, no questions asked.
- 3) Those with a growth mindset seek partners that will push each other towards happiness and achievements as a team.
- 4) Kids show a fixed or growth mindset very early on. Those that display a fixed mindset can be prodded into growth mindsets by accepting more challenging assignments, being asked what they learned, and showing humility.
- 5) The fixed mindset is detrimental to learning because it tells us that genius is natural and that effort is for dumb people. It can be disastrous when they (fixed mindset) get to a college or corporate environment that preaches a fixed mindset and praises natural genius.

Like [Enron](#), there are numerous corporate stories where everyone from the CEO and down practiced a fixed mindset. Enron did not value learning, growth, teamwork, and education. They recruited those with the best stats out of college and told them they were amazing. The company went down in flames.

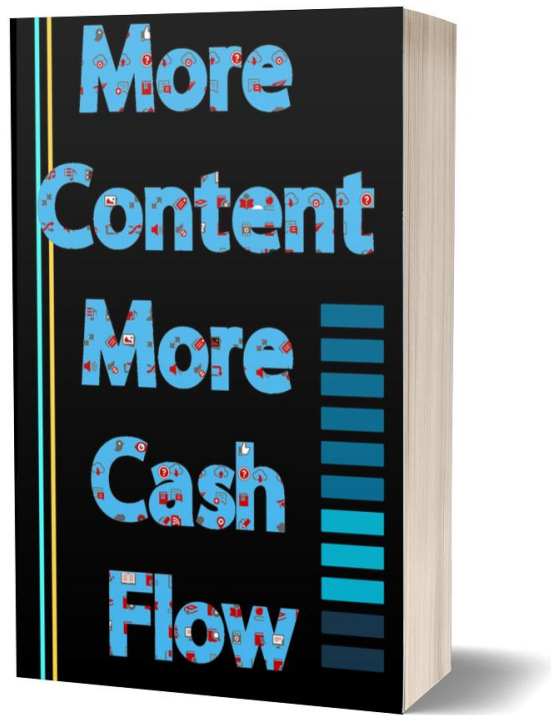
The growth mindset seeks to challenge and accomplish. It does not seek admiration—only to feel the joy of discovery and knowledge. To become a true entrepreneur, one must seek a growth mindset.

We may never achieve the perfect growth mindset, but now that we know the two mindsets, we can at least work towards a higher level of fulfillment. Everyone—students, parents, entrepreneurs, athletes—should put this book on their reading lists.

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