



EPISODE 18 | WOMEN, WEALTH & WHAT MATTERS

"Am I Going to Be Okay?"

Five reasons every woman needs a financial plan.

1 A PORTFOLIO IS NOT A FINANCIAL PLAN

- Having investments is not the same as having a financial plan - knowing a number doesn't tell you if you'll be okay.
- The right question isn't 'Do I have enough?' - it's 'Enough for what?' Two people with the same net worth can have completely different financial pictures.
- Your plan should determine the return you actually need, not chase the highest possible return.
- Build the investment strategy around the plan - not your life around the portfolio.

2 YOU NEED A DESTINATION BEFORE YOU CAN BUILD THE ROUTE

- A financial plan starts with understanding what 'okay' looks like to you - retirement age, lifestyle, housing, travel, family goals.
- Like a GPS, your money can't give you directions until you give it a destination.
- Once the destination is clear, we work backwards from savings, Social Security, spending, taxes, inflation, and time.
- The question isn't 'Did the market go up?' - it's 'Can my money support the life I want?'

3 ONCE THE PLAN WORKS, TRY TO BREAK IT

- A good plan isn't just admired - it's stress-tested. What if you retire earlier? Live to 100? Markets crash right after you retire?
- Monte Carlo analysis runs hundreds of possible scenarios to test how your plan holds up across different futures.
- The goal isn't a plan that only works if everything goes perfectly - it's one that survives when life gets messy.
- Stress-testing reveals the resilience of your plan before life tests it for real.

4 IF LIFE CHANGES, RECALCULATE

- Life will make you miss some exits - that doesn't mean you failed your financial plan. You recalculate.
- A financial plan isn't something you create once and put on a shelf - it needs to evolve as your life does.
- Tax laws, markets, family needs, and personal goals all change over time. Your plan should too.
- Like a GPS: figure out where you are now, remember where you're going, find the best new route.

5 IF THE NUMBERS DON'T WORK, FIND THE LEVERS

- Knowing early is a gift - now you have time. Levers include retirement date, spending level, Social Security timing, and savings rate.
- Sometimes a small adjustment today has a huge impact over 20 or 30 years.
- You're not saying 'I hope I'm okay' - you're saying 'Here are my choices, and here's what improves my odds.'
- And sometimes? The plan says you're fine. Take the trip. Help your kids. Go live the life you worked so hard to build.

"Money isn't the goal. Your life is the goal. Your money is there to help you live it."