

Brien L. Smith, CFP®

Looking back - and looking forward

We have recently celebrated New Year's Eve, hopefully entering the year 2019 carrying with us important lessons from 2018. I'd like to take some time to reflect on all I've learned this past year, and to share my time-honored New Year's resolutions for 2019.

I resolve to say "thank you" more often to people. I include in this group my family, clients, friends, and yes, even those who may not be so happy about their jobs. Over the years, I have come to understand that a sincere "thank you" can be more rewarding than a paycheck. I also understand how important it is to tell people you appreciate what they do for you.

I resolve to better appreciate all that is around me. Yes, there are always going to be others with more - more friends, money, material items. But I want to be sure that I appreciate what I have, because I am so fortunate to have it.

I resolve to better use my ability to choose . . . to choose what I say and do, how I impact the lives of others and more. No other creature on this earth has the human ability to choose and I find myself often overlooking this gift.

I resolve to learn something new every quarter. It might be a new investment alternative or service for my clients. It might also be a new academic discipline, hobby or concept. Whatever it is, I know it will help to expand my horizons, which will not only benefit me, but will hopefully benefit those around me.

I resolve to do one more thing for my community. It might be making one more donation to a worthy cause or taking on a charitable responsibility. I don't know what it will be yet, but I do know I have to give more back to our community in 2019 than I did in 2018.

These are a few of my resolutions for 2019. I hope you will join me by adding them to your list, so that, together, we can make this a better world.

I would like to close by evoking my first resolution and thanking you for your friendship. I also look forward to continuing and strengthening our friendship throughout 2019.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Brien L. Smith, CFP Owner/Founder Celebrating 30 years Traditions Wealth Advisors