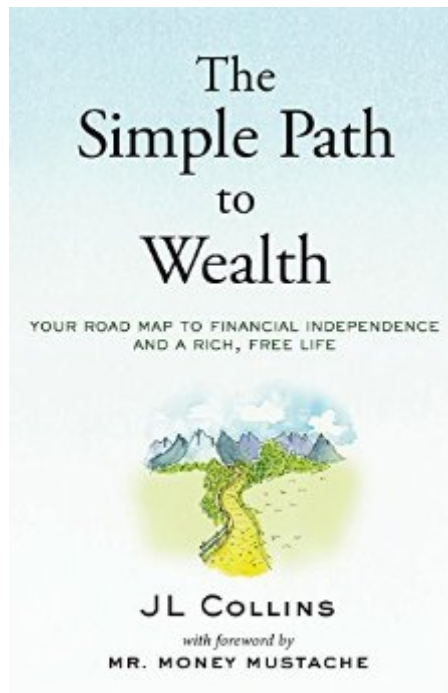


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# The Simple Path To Wealth: Your Road Map To Financial Independence And A Rich, Free Life



## Synopsis

In the dark, bewildering, trap-infested jungle of misinformation and opaque riddles that is the world of investment, JL Collins is the fatherly wizard on the side of the path, offering a simple map, warm words of encouragement and the tools to forge your way through with confidence. You'll never find a wiser advisor with a bigger heart.

-- Malachi Rempen: Filmmaker, cartoonist, author and self-described ruffian

This book grew out of a series of letters to my daughter concerning various things "mostly about money and investing" she was not yet quite ready to hear. Since money is the single most powerful tool we have for navigating this complex world we've created, understanding it is critical.

But Dad, she once said, I know money is important. I just don't want to spend my life thinking about it.

This was eye-opening. I love this stuff. But most people have better things to do with their precious time. Bridges to build, diseases to cure, treaties to negotiate, mountains to climb, technologies to create, children to teach, businesses to run. Unfortunately, benign neglect of things financial leaves you open to the charlatans of the financial world. The people who make investing endlessly complex, because if it can be made complex it becomes more profitable for them, more expensive for us, and we are forced into their waiting arms.

Here's an important truth: Complex investments exist only to profit those who create and sell them. Not only are they more costly to the investor, they are less effective. The simple approach I created for her and present now to you, is not only easy to understand and implement, it is more powerful than any other.

Together we'll explore:

- Debt: Why you must avoid it and what to do if you have it.
- The importance of having F-you Money.
- How to think about money, and the unique way understanding this is key to building your wealth.
- Where traditional investing advice goes wrong and what actually works.
- What the stock market really is and how it really works.
- Why the stock market always goes up and why most people still lose money investing in it.
- How to invest in a raging bull, or bear, market.
- Specific investments to implement these strategies.
- The Wealth Building and Wealth Preservation phases of your investing life and why they are not always tied to your age.
- How your asset allocation is tied to those phases and how to choose it.
- How to simplify the sometimes confusing world of 401(k), 403(b), TSP, IRA and Roth accounts.
- TRFs (Target Retirement Funds), HSAs (Health Savings Accounts) and RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions).
- What investment firm to use and why the one I recommend is so far superior to the competition.
- Why you should be very cautious when engaging an investment advisor and whether you need to at all.
- Why and how you can be conned, and how to avoid becoming prey.
- Why I don't recommend dollar cost averaging.
- What financial independence looks like and how to have your money support you.
- What the 4% rule is and how to use it to safely spend your

wealth. The truth behind Social Security. A Case Study on how this all can be implemented in real life. Don't let any of this intimidate you. Those that have gone before you say: "in his patented no-frills and often humorous style, JL makes it both approachable and simple. And powerful. An effective message told in a visual, funny style. A refreshingly unique and approachable take on investing." JL Collins has the gift of making boring financial concepts funny and interesting. Instead of esoteric equations about measuring a stock's alpha and comparing it to its beta, he lights up the campfire and starts telling stories. Enjoy the read, and the journey!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Spend less than you earn--invest the surplus--avoid debt" The central theme of Jim's website and book. It's hard to believe the Path to Wealth can be this simple. But in his book, you'll see it is. I got to admit. I love this book! My review is going to sound a little over the top, but it's a damn good book!! I have been big into finance and real estate books my whole life. I've read them all. About a year ago, I stumbled across financial independence and early retirement websites and it opened up an entire

new world to me!! began seeking out all the top blogs in this field, and one that kept coming up was jllcollinsnh.com. To put it bluntly, his Stock Series was the most comprehensive explanation of investments I have ever read. There is so much noise and confusion out there in the finance world, and he slices right through it and tells you what's really important. He makes it easy to understand the complex world of money. His approach to investment is so simple, it's alarming!! I followed his blog closely and eagerly awaited new posts. When he sent out an email explaining he was writing a book and soliciting help from his readers for proofreading, I jumped at the chance!! The only reason I volunteered was because I wanted to read the book ASAP!!! As luck would have it, I was selected to be a proofreader, and had the opportunity to read the book before publication. (Actually, I've read it about 20 times. Occupational hazard!) The book is exactly what I was hoping it would be. All the great content from the Stock Series. And more.

I've always recommended JL Collins's Stock Series to anyone interested in saving, investing and early retirement. JL now took the series and other posts from his blog, polished them and made into a book. THE GOOD Everything is explained very simply and JL uses a lot of stories. It's also very short, so you won't be bored reading it. You'll learn the basics about stocks and bonds, how the market works and that a very good investment strategy is actually very simple, with only two index funds. But more importantly, it will give you other crucial advice for this endeavour: \* There will be times when your portfolio drops 20% within a week and you'll feel like you've made a huge mistake. The solution is simple: treat it as a "Sale! Everything 20% off". The book has a lot of other tricks to make you a calm investor. \* Chapter III "It has never been about retirement" is the single best short piece I've read about the philosophy of saving and early retirement. If you need motivation for saving and investing, this book will give you plenty. \* I also really like the final chapter on risk. No, you can't be sure the 4% rule will work forever. You can't be sure Earth won't be hit by an asteroid. We live in uncertainty, but having savings can only help you. THE BAD My biggest complaint is the incorrect advice about international investing. To be fair, most investing books are also incorrect, but JL goes too far and recommends only owning American companies. This is on three grounds: high risk, big American companies are global and it's more expensive.

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