

# STEPS TO HELP FORTIFY YOUR FINANCIAL HOUSE



- ❑ 1. **GET CLARITY/DISCERNMENT ON CASH FLOW**  
(Understand where your money is going)
- ❑ 2. **ESTABLISH AN EMERGENCY FUND**
  - Start with a goal of 3 months' worth of living expenses
- ❑ 3. **OPT INTO YOUR 401K UP TO YOUR COMPANY MATCH**
  - Consider having your contributions go into a Roth 401k if it's available to you
  - SECURE Act 2.0 = companies can allow employees to have their matching dollars contributed after tax
- ❑ 4. **PAY DOWN ANY "BAD DEBTS"** (RULE OF THUMB = ANYTHING OVER 6%)
  - Avalanche Method = Focus on the highest interest rate first
  - Snowball Method = Focus on the smallest balance first
- ❑ 5. **FUND AN HSA ACCOUNT IF YOU HAVE A HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLAN**
  - Tax deduction on contributions, tax free growth and tax-free distributions for health-related expenses
- ❑ 6. **FUND A ROTH IRA ACCOUNT**
- ❑ 7. **FUND A TAXABLE INVESTMENT ACCOUNT** ("FLEXIBILITY ACCOUNT")
  - Saving for Down Payment, Bucket List Trip, New Car, Etc...
- ❑ 8. **OPTIMIZE YOUR RETIREMENT BENEFITS FROM YOUR EMPLOYER**
  - ESPP, RSU, Life Insurance, Disability Insurance, Options, Etc...
  - PD Budgets, Travel Budgets, Estate Planning Help, CPA Help
- ❑ 9. **PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE LIFESTYLE**
  - Pay off mortgage
  - Savings for future college expenses
- ❑ 10. **DEFINE YOUR FINISH LINE: MORE IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER**