Investing Wisdom from the Greats

Today, I'm going to share some quotes from the world's most famous investors. Please write in to share your favorite if it doesn't appear on this list; I might print it in a future column.

"When reward is at its pinnacle, risk is near at hand." — John (Jack) Bogle, founder of the Vanguard Group.

"Look at market fluctuations as your friend rather than your enemy. Profit from folly rather than participate in it." — Warren Buffett, the Oracle of Omaha and the third richest man in the world.

"Psychology is probably the most important factor in the market — and one that is least understood." — David Dreman, a contrarian investor and author.

"I don't want a lot of good investments; I want a few outstanding ones." — Philip A. Fisher, growth investor and author of "Common Stocks and Uncommon Profits."

"Even the intelligent investor is likely to need considerable willpower to keep from following the crowd." — Benjamin Graham, the Father of Value Investing and author of "Security Analysis" and "The Intelligent Investor."

"If you stay half-alert, you can pick the spectacular performers right from your place of business or out of the neighborhood shopping mall, and long before Wall Street discovers them." — Peter Lynch, managed Fidelity Magellan Fund from 1977 to 1990, beating the S&P 500 Index in 11 of those 13 years, achieving an annual return of 29%.

"Successful stocks don't tell you when to sell. When you feel like bragging, it's probably time to sell." — John Neff, averaged annual total return of 13.7% (versus S&P 500's 10.6%) while managing Vanguard's Windsor Fund from 1964 to 1995.

"Since the market tends to go in the opposite direction of what the majority of people think, I would say 95% of all these people you hear on TV shows are giving you their personal opinion. And personal opinions are almost always worthless ... facts and markets are far more reliable." — William J. O'Neil, growth stock investor, CANSLIM author and founder of Investor's Business Daily.

"Change is the investor's only certainty." — Thomas Rowe Price Jr., growth stock investor and found of T. Rowe Price investment firm.

"Most leading stocks cannot spare the time and money to research smaller stocks. You are therefore more likely to find a bargain in this relatively underexploited area of the stock market," — Julian Robertson, has the best hedge fund record during the 1980s and 1990s, with a compound rate of return of 32%.

"It's not whether you're right or wrong that's important, but how much money you make when you're right and how much money you lose when you're wrong." — George Soros, ran the Quantum Fund, which generated an average annual return of more than 30%.

"Invest at the point of maximum pessimism." — John Templeton, of the Templeton investment funds. In 1939, he famously bought $100 of every stock trading below $1 on the New York and American stock exchanges, totaling 104 stocks, of which 34 went bankrupt. He invested a total of $10,400 and sold four years later for more than $40,000.