

What You Should Do When There is Nothing to Buy

[% oldschoollvalue.com/blog/ideas/nothing-to-buy/](https://oldschoolvalue.com/blog/ideas/nothing-to-buy/)

Investing is difficult.

But **not** investing is even more difficult.

What I mean is that, when markets are frothy or volatile, it takes a great amount of skill to sit and do nothing.

It takes character to sit there with all that cash and do nothing. I didn't get to where I am by going after mediocre opportunities. - Charlie Munger

To Mr Market, activity equals achievement.

So I asked a simple question to fellow investors on [facebook](#) a month back.

What Do You Do When There is Nothing to Buy?



Old School Value · 1,338 like this

October 11 at 12:05pm · 🌐



What do you do to pass the time when you have nothing to buy?

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Milena Topalova likes this.



Dan Trang go over current holdings

October 11 at 12:08pm · Like



Ferdinand Bönisch Sell 😊

October 11 at 12:11pm via mobile · Like



Bill Werb If you're Warren, you're reading 10k's.

October 11 at 12:29pm via mobile · Like · 🍌 2



Jennifer Felten research more and decide if this is the point I dump JPM. It's been almost 2 years and it's been a decent ride. IDK... was a crazy week.

October 11 at 12:52pm · Edited · Like



Ney J Torres Read old school value

October 11 at 1:42pm via mobile · Like · 🍌 1



Andrew Chang I lost track..whatd you do with grvy?

October 11 at 1:55pm via mobile · Like



Sung Mun Let's go play tennis.

October 11 at 2:16pm via mobile · Like



Ket-Sin Steven Yong I got the same problem. Stocks are fairly priced now. Bargain is very to find except in special situation.

October 11 at 2:39pm · Edited · Like



John Simpson accumulate cash to purchase more when the market gets the jitters again.

October 11 at 3:32pm · Like



Old School Value @andrew I still have a small position. Not working out well at all. Just keeping a small position.

October 11 at 4:03pm · Like



Brian Bakken These are times when I realize that, unfortunately, I am still so far from being a great value investor because I am all too often overcome by 'the need to do something.' It only ever leads to poor results compared to what 'could have been.'

October 11 at 8:37pm via mobile · Like



Adib Motiwala Special sit. Keeps me busy. Read books if u can.

October 11 at 10:16pm via mobile · Like



Towards Total Financial Freedom I will look for new stocks for the purpose of rebalancing portfolio or replace existing non-performing stocks in my portfolio

October 12 at 5:54am · Like



Dev Piprottar Classic temptation scenario. Difficult to sit and do nothing. Read books and articles by great gurus. See if you can find new ideas if you can learn from it.

October 12 at 9:06am · Like

The most common answer and obvious answer is to continue reading. Keep it up to prepare yourself for the next opportunity that pops up.

It also helps because it keeps you busy so you don't have to constantly check what the market is doing.

Other than that, here are some additional ideas of what you can do while the market marches forward and there is less to buy.

- Re-evaluate your stocks
- Read that book, you've been meaning to get to
- or re-read a book that you enjoyed
- Go through the investing journals and papers you downloaded
- Analyze your prior holdings to learn from your mistakes
- Flip through as many stocks as possible using the [OSV Stock Analyzer](#) or screener to come up with a list of stocks to watch
- Examine your investment philosophy
- Talk with a mentor regarding businesses. If you don't have a mentor, read past letters and papers written by the greats.
- If you own a stock with physical locations or products, visit a store and ask questions

Happy investing.