



## Am I Really Ready to Retire? 5 Questions to Ask Yourself

Retirement today isn't about riding off into the sunset or flipping a switch and never working again. For most people, it feels more like stepping into a brand-new chapter—exciting, a little uncertain, and full of big decisions.

So if you've been asking yourself, "Am I really ready to retire?" you're definitely not alone. Here are five questions worth thinking about.

### 1. Do you know how much you'll actually spend—and what on?

Many people may know how much they've saved, but fewer may know how much they'll spend in retirement. And retirement can come in stages.

Early on, you might travel more, spend extra time with the grandkids, or finally tackle that dream trip to Italy. Later, things might slow down.

Instead of just asking, "Do I have enough?" try asking, "What do I want my money to do for me?" Once you answer that, the numbers may start to fall into place.

### 2. Where's your paycheck going to come from?

When you're working, the paycheck shows up like clockwork. In retirement, you need to create your own.

That usually means pulling together Social Security, retirement accounts, maybe a pension, or even part-time work. The goal: build a steady "retirement paycheck" that covers your lifestyle. This may help to keep you from stressing over every dip impacting investments in the market.

### 3. Have you factored in healthcare costs?

This one can surprise a lot of people. Medicare is great, but it doesn't cover everything and those gaps can get expensive.

Think supplemental insurance, prescriptions, or long-term care planning. Not the most exciting part of retirement but can be one of the most important.

### 4. What's your game plan when the market gets bumpy?

The market has good days and bad days—always has, always will. The difference in retirement is that a rough patch can feel a lot more stressful when you're not bringing home a paycheck.

That's why it's smart to have a plan before the bumps hit. Maybe that's keeping a cushion of cash for peace of mind, balancing investments so you're not overexposed, or just knowing which money you'll tap first if things dip.

The key is having a strategy that can help you ride out the storm without panicking—or feeling like you need to sell at the worst possible time.

### 5. What will give your days meaning?

Money aside, this might be the most important question.

Some retirees travel. Others volunteer, spend more time with family, or finally dive into hobbies they never had time for.

Retirement isn't just about finances—it's about creating a life that feels fulfilling.

### Final Thought

You don't need to have every answer today. But if you're starting to think about retirement—or you're already there and want to make sure you're on track—it's the perfect time to take a closer look.

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