Investors tend to see short-term volatility as the enemy. Volatility may lead many investors to move money out of the market and “sit on the sidelines” until things “calm down.” Although this approach may appear to solve one problem, it creates several others:

#1) When do you get back in? You must make two correct decisions back-to-back; when to get out and when to get back in.
#2) By going to the sidelines you may be missing a potential rebound. This is not historically unprecedented; see chart below.
#3) By going to the sidelines you could be not only missing a potential rebound, but all the potential growth on that money going forward.

We believe the wiser course of action is to review your plan with your advisor and from there, decide if any action is indeed necessary. This placates the natural desire to “do something,” but helps keep emotions in check.

**Intra-Year Declines vs. Calendar Year Returns**

Volatility is not a recent phenomenon. Each year, one can expect the market to experience a significant correction, which for the S&P 500 has averaged approximately 14% since 1980. Although past performance is no guarantee of future results, history has shown that those who chose to stay the course were rewarded for their patience more often than not.