A large, dark tree stands in the center-right of the frame. From its canopy, numerous bright, golden-yellow light rays radiate outwards, creating a dramatic, ethereal effect. The background is dark and misty, with some faint, glowing shapes that suggest a forest or a celestial scene. The overall mood is mysterious and powerful.

What was I,
that I could
withstand God?

Russell M. Nelson

"[God's] children can be so intolerant with one another. Neighboring factions, whether they be identified as groups or gangs, schools or states, counties or countries, often develop animosity. Such tendencies make me wonder:

Cannot boundary lines exist without becoming battle lines?

Could not people unite in waging war against the evils that beset mankind instead of waging war on each other? Sadly, answers to these questions are often no.

Through the years, discrimination based on ethnic or religious identity has led to senseless slaughter, vicious pogroms, and countless acts of cruelty. The face of history is pocked by the ugly scars of intolerance." (Russell M. Nelson, *Perfection Pending, and Other Favorite Discourses*, 67.)



Cornelius and Peter

Acts 10



Guarantees we would like

If I slather them in Purell they won't ever get sick...

A great Pinterest meme will change my life...

If they carry a toothbrush everywhere, they won't have cavities...

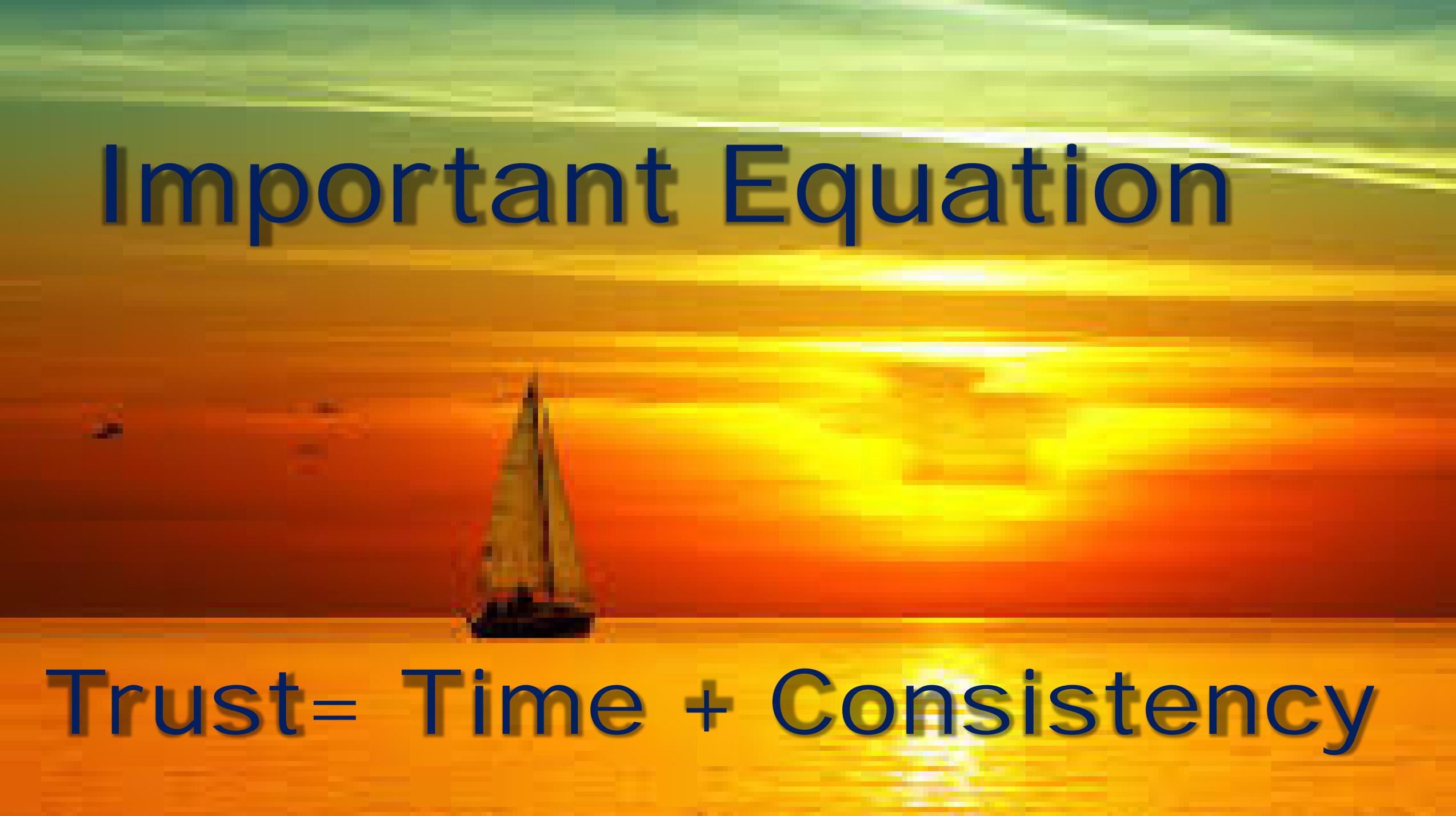
If we always pay our tithing we will never have financial problems...

The family that prays together will never lose a kid...

If I marry a returned missionary in the temple our marriage will never have spiritual problems...



Important Equation



$\text{Trust} = \text{Time} + \text{Consistency}$

The Angel or the Sword?

Acts 12



James Talmage

"...We are apt in our weakness to pray with our lips and scarcely expect in our hearts that our petitions will be granted.

I often think that we are not unlike the Saints of olden times who were gathered in prayer at the time of Peter's imprisonment.

...Yet we today feel surprised when the Lord manifests His power to us in any strong or otherwise remarkable manner;

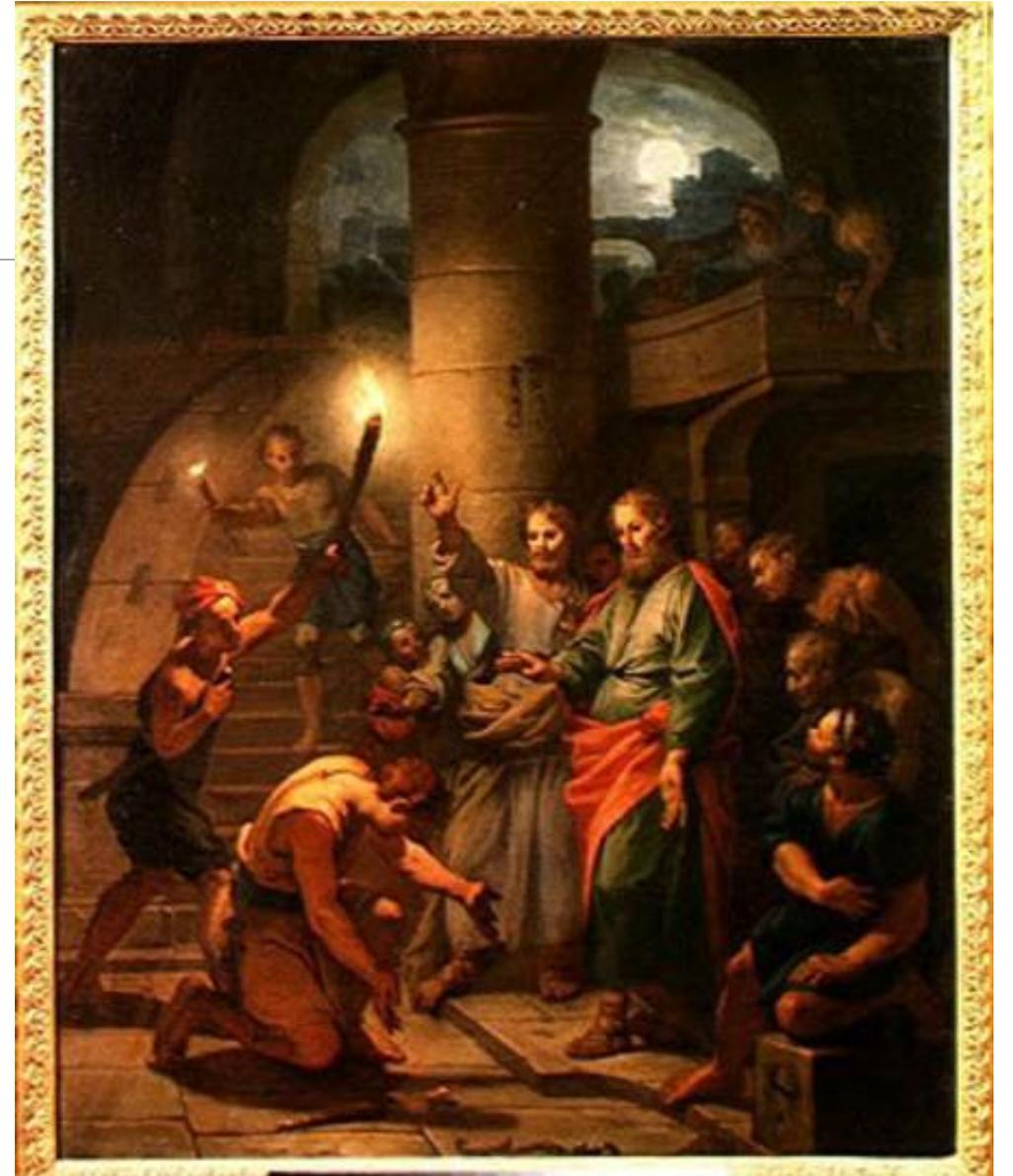
our greatest cause for wonderment would seem to lie in the contemplation of His mercy, that He will interpose in behalf of such weak and sinful mortals as many of us are. He is as willing today as ever in the past to assist His servants, and that too, by what we call miraculous means should it be necessary."

(Collected Discourses, June 25, 1893.)



Paul and Barnabas

Acts 13



True Principle



Godly Work is done:

In Earthly places made God-like (sacred and dedicated)

At Earthly times made God-like (separated from other times and dates)

By Earthly people made sacred (Set Apart, Dedicated for season)

Promises

Acts 13:32