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## **The Shortest Bridge** by Teresa Hampton

What is the purpose of a bridge? Its purpose is to cross over an expanse to arrive at another place, avoiding an otherwise long route. Most of us would agree that bridges are a good thing. Spiritual bridges are a *very* good thing. Consider these important bridges:

The shortest bridge between man and God is Jesus' sacrifice. *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us* (Romans 5:8).

The shortest bridge between condemnation and redemption is obedience. *He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned* (Mark 16:16).

The shortest bridge between despair and hope is assurance. *This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil* (Hebrews 6:19).

The shortest bridge between enemies is forgiveness. *Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him* (Luke 17:3).

The shortest bridge between covetousness and contentment is gratitude. *In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you* (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

The shortest bridge between profane worship and authorized worship is obedience. *Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams* (1 Samuel 15:22).

The shortest bridge between division and unity is yielding in matters of opinion. *It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak* (Romans 14:21).

The shortest bridge between destroying and building is controlling the tongue. *And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell* (James 3:6).

**Today's Verse:** *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ* (Ephesians 2:13).

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