

Accept No Substitutes

1 Samuel 2:2 - No one is holy like the Lord, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.

I am the absolute queen of knock-off brands. Maybe it's because I am a college student and forever agonizing over my bank account, maybe it's because I grew up on the mission field and was used to going without, or maybe I just inherited it from my mom, who is always trying to find ways to save. Whichever the case may be, I'm always looking for the better deal. Why pay two dollars more for the expensive face wash when the Target brand is *exactly* the same? Why splurge on the Band-Aid brand when the store brand works and sticks just as well? And why bother splurging on the expensive cinnamon-sugar cereal when I can get twice as much of the grocery store brand for the same price? *And I actually like better, anyway!*



There are, however, certain products that I will *not* compromise with. I am under the impression that any imitation of Nabisco's Oreo cookie is such a fraud that they shouldn't even be allowed to be made. And you better just forget it if you think I'll be putting anything but Charmin toilet paper in my bathroom. There are just some things that weren't meant to be "knocked off."

Infinitely more important than toilet paper and Oreo cookies are our spiritual lives and relationships with God. He's not an imitation or a remake of something more expensive. He is the real deal, a genuine experience. You'll never have to worry about Him substituting something a little more cost effective or skimping on blessings and content, because He is 100% authentic. We don't need to seek other sources for our comfort, strength, or salvation. He is all we need, and there is none that ever has or ever will be an adequate substitute for Him in our lives.