

# seed

VOL. 6 NO. 2 | NOVEMBER 2010

## NEVER ALONE

OVERCOMING LONELINESS **3**  
IN THE BIG CITY

## ALL WE'VE EVER WANTED

WHY GETTING ALL WE'VE EVER WANTED MAY BE **5**  
THE WORST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN TO US

## DIVINE ADDICTION

AN ANNOYING HABIT TRANSFORMED **9**  
INTO A SPIRITUAL OBSESSION

## EENIE MEENIE MINEY MO **11**

IS THAT GOD SPEAKING TO ME ON MY IPOD?

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

GOD'S LAWS INTERPRETED **12**  
FOR A NEW GENERATION

## ALSO

HAPPILY EVER AFTER  
SIN IS LIKE A VIRUS  
WHO AM I? / STORM THEOLOGY  
DEAR SEED / HAPPENINGS



2. **LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**
3. **NEVER ALONE**  
ASHLEY WAYNE
4. **STORM THEOLOGY**  
TERESA DOMBACH
5. **ALL WE'VE EVER WANTED**  
JOHN PARK
6. **FAITH VS. SCIENCE**  
JOHN KOO
7. **HAPPILY EVER AFTER**  
ELAINE TSUI  
**ARTWORK**  
JANICE CHUA
8. **POEM: GRACE**  
DEBORAH KIM
9. **DIVINE ADDICTION**  
APRIL KIM
10. **WHO AM I?**  
ASHA DAVIDSON
11. **EENIE MEENIE MINEY MO** (COVER STORY)  
MICHELLE CHUNG
12. **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS** (COVER STORY)  
YVETTE SHIN
14. **DEAR SEED**
15. **GOD HATES FIGS**  
REY SORIANO
16. **THE FORMULA**  
VICKY AHN  
**THE HAND OF GOD OR MERE COINCIDENCE?**  
MICHELLE CHUNG
17. **THE SACRIFICE**  
TERESA DOMBACH  
**POEM: SPRING**  
KOKEI OTOSI
18. **POEM: LIFE IS SIMPLE**  
WILLIAM SHIN
19. **IF I ONLY HAD ...**  
ASHLEY WAYNE
20. **KEEPING A HEALTHY TEMPLE**  
HANNAH NO
21. **SIN IS LIKE A VIRUS**  
DR. WILLIAM SHIN
22. **HAPPENINGS**

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This semester in Seed, we decided to go back far into the Old Testament and revisit what could be considered the foundation and inspiration for Western law – the Ten Commandments. At first, I couldn't see how studying such archaic texts would be relevant to NYU students. To top that, who wants to hear about laws? As children of our parents, as NYU students, as residents of New York, as citizens of the USA, we are overwhelmed with laws dictating almost every detail of our lives. Why should we study about God's law and further bind already heavily bound students with even more restrictions?

But as I studied the Ten Commandments, I came to know a very different God than I was expecting. I was expecting to meet the legalistic and righteous arbiter, ready to condemn and judge according to an unobtainable divine standard. But the God I met in the Ten Commandments was nothing like one would expect the Almighty Creator to be. He seemed more like an emotionally vulnerable, overly sensitive, and desperately jealous wreck of a divinity. God, in the first four commandments, demands that we love Him; but in the process of this deific ultimatum, He concurrently confesses how much power we have over Him. The Alpha and the Omega is vulnerable to us – we have power to break His heart.

You will find an adoration of this 'jealous' God as the underlying theme of the articles you read in this issue of Seed. I hope you discover how much power you have been given over this vulnerable, gracious God. It will completely change your life!

JOHN PARK

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! POST YOUR COMMENTS AT [WWW.NYUSEED.COM](http://WWW.NYUSEED.COM)

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PHOTOGRAPH BY DEBORAH KIM

New York City is home to millions of people and as a New Yorker, you literally pass hundreds of those people each day. Living in the hugeness of New York can make you feel small or alone or even invisible. How can it be that there are so many people, yet often we feel lonely and unloved?

Moving to New York from California, I understand how hard it is to adjust. There are so many outlets to meet new people, yet it can be hard to form anything beyond a superficial acquaintance. We long for friendships with substance, attachments built on trust and unconditional love. We crave authentic community from which strong bonds and life-long friends can be made. Instead, however, we settle for the polite, "Hi, how are you?" from that classmate who borrowed your notes last week, or worse, we max out on our limit of Facebook friends. Sad.

But in the hustle and bustle of the city, when you are aching for the fulfilling company of a loving friend or the joy of being with your best pals, you can know that there is a God who totally, utterly and completely loves you.

He is there for you every step you take down

Fifth Avenue, and also through the rough days. He proudly celebrates your moments of success, and readily shares in your pain and agony. You are unconditionally loved and can always be comforted by the loving friendship of God. It can be hard to contemplate that the Creator of the universe loves you so much and that you can have a relationship with Him. But that is exactly what He wants. The Bible says, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (JOHN 1:14 NIV). In other words, God wants to be our friend.

But God is greater than a friend because He is there for you 100% of the time and always has your best interests in mind. He sees the best in you, because He created you and wants to be close to you through prayer and Scripture.

Anyone can know and experience the love of God, even in New York City. I know my experience here wouldn't have been smooth or joyful without God's amazing love and the incredible blessings I have seen Him work into my life. So if you feel lonely, ask God for His friendship and ask to feel His love as you go through life. Because with a such a loving God as ours, no one ever has to feel alone.



# STORM THEOLOGY

TERESA DOMBACH

PHOTOGRAPH BY DEBORAH KIM

Ever since I was a child, I have loved thunderstorms. To this day, I turn into a wide-eyed 6-year-old at the first flash of lightning or that loud crack of thunder. For me, the excitement of a storm is on par with that moment when you reach the top of the roller coaster and are about to... fall... down... the deep, winding precipice. I'm scared, but I know I'm relatively safe.

Often Christians use the word "storm" to refer to difficult or troubled times in our lives — a conflict at church, fights among friends, three midterms the same day, trouble back home. The references are in the songs we sing — from "when the oceans rise and thunders roar, I will soar with you above the storm" (Reuben Morgan's "Still") to "when clouds brought rain, and disaster came" (David Crowder's "Never Let Go") — as well as our everyday speech and prayers. Most of the time, people simply pray and hope to overcome the "storm," asking that they do not drown in its fierce winds and pummeling rains.

This fall, I turned out all the lights in my apartment so I could watch a thunderstorm, of course, with a smile on my face and a delighted giggle forming in my throat. And as I watched, I got this feeling that the "storms" in my life,

the difficulties and troubles, were coming to an end — a relief, right? No, I had a complete panic attack. I stood staring at the thunderstorm, sobbing, tears streaming down my face, looking like a fool, asking God, "If the 'storms' stop, will I still hear you?"

If you look at storms in the Bible, many times God uses them as an opportunity to speak and teach people. When Moses went up to Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments, the book of Exodus describes "thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain" (EXODUS 19:16 NIV). When God finally speaks to Job, after chapter after chapter of Job's lamenting, God speaks "out of the storm" to rebuke and reassure Job (JOB 38:1 NIV). In 3-of-4 gospels (MATTHEW 8:23-27; MARK 4:35-41; LUKE 8:22-25), the disciples are terrified by a fast-appearing storm as they cross a lake. Jesus is asleep in the boat. In a panic, they awake Jesus, who stills the storm and then uses the opportunity to teach them about faith.

Maybe the storms in our lives are not just about overcoming troubles or difficulties, but about God's desire to speak to us and teach us. Maybe storms are not meant to be dreaded, but embraced.

# ALL WE'VE EVER WANTED

JOHN PARK

I'm here. I made it.

I will soon be a graduating senior from NYU Stern. The grades are not so bad. The employment offers are on the table. I have close friends that I love to death. Is this not all I ever wanted?

As NYU students, we spend four years in school working hard to succeed. Isn't that what this chance at higher education is all about? We strive endlessly sitting in the corner of Bobst somewhere for hours reading book after book. We over caffeinate ourselves at the Starbucks right across the street to push ourselves beyond our natural human limits in order to make our dreams a reality.

And during this whole process, we never imagine that actually getting our heart's deepest desires might be the worst thing that can ever happen to us...

Recently, I had to prepare a presentation on the Second Commandment (EXODUS 20:4-6 NIV) which concerns idolatry. What struck me was the language God used in verse 5, "You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me." Would a just, loving and tolerant God really sound like this?

How does God punish us? The apostle Paul says in Romans 1:24 that one of the worst things God can do is give us over to the desires of our hearts. How is this God's punishment? It almost

seems too good to be true! But Paul continues, "They ... worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator" (ROMANS 1:25 NIV). In other words, we became idolatrous. And God punishes us by letting us suffer the consequences of our idolatry.

The thesis of the Bible, the underlying theme that drives every narrative, is the rejection of idolatry. The Bible is a book of story after story illustrating the infinite forms of idolatry that people engage in and the disillusionment, despair, and ultimate devastation it causes. There is a biblical narrative that elucidates how a specific idol, whether it is career, love, money, or success, comes into and finally destroys our lives.

The heroes of the Bible are not people who lived good and moral lives, but people, who through the help of divine intervention, reject idolatry. God lets them realize the hard way that a life without Him is empty and meaningless. But He doesn't abandon them completely. Rather He sent Jesus and punished Him instead. All the debt of sin that was accrued due to idolatry is covered on the cross.

I am here. I did make it. I have made idols out of my career, my grades, and many other things during my four years of college. But I did make it out, not because of what I have done, but because of what He has done. This is the biggest lesson that I've learned in my four years here — I have a jealous God who loves me for who I am, and not for what I do.

What more could anyone ever want?

# FAITH VS. SCIENCE

JOHN KOO

It is no great secret that academia and Christianity are often at odds with one another. Although religion sometimes motivates and patronizes academic pursuits, it is better known for opposing new theories and ideas. Examples of this range from Galileo and Copernicus' heliocentric solar system to Darwin's theory of evolution to even our own experiences in dealing with atheist professors. At the heart of this conflict lies the relationship between science and faith.

The Bible defines faith as, "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (HEBREWS 11:1 NIV). On the other hand, to quote Richard Feynman, "Science is the belief in the ignorance of experts."<sup>1</sup> While Christianity promotes acceptance through an indefinable mode of perception, science operates on doubt and empiricism. Science purports that everything, from nature to humanity, to even divinity, must have some scientific explanation, supported by empirical data and logical reasoning. By postulating that some force or being exists outside of and affects the natural world, one is rejecting the basis of science itself.

It is then surprising that in a recent survey of 1,700 of the nation's elite scientists, nearly half identified themselves as religious and an additional twenty percent reported being spiritual (but not religious in the traditional sense).<sup>2</sup>

One resolution depicts science and religion as mutually reinforcing. Religion often motivates new scientific studies, and on the other side, scientific results can be understood in religious contexts. Many scientists view the process of science as a spiritual experience, as it gives them a sense of wonderment, beauty, and

mystery. Others see science as evidence of the supernatural.

Another proposition is that because faith and science operated in mutually exclusive realms, they complement, rather than oppose, one another. There are limits to human knowledge; and faith, among other things, can fill in the gaps (by "limits" and "gaps," it is not meant that because something cannot be explained it must be supernatural — but rather that science alone cannot answer everything). Many scientists consider religious and philosophical problems such as the purpose of life as having no scientific meaning. Biologist Kenneth Miller adds, "Faith and reason are both gifts from God ... [they] should complement each other rather than be in conflict."<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, this is not reality but an ideal. If science and religion operate on two independent realities, they would not constantly be in conflict.

Perhaps the conflict is not innate, but a human construction formed by our limited understanding or misunderstanding. Past conflicts have been resolved, and while they are replaced by new ones, is it not part of the human experience to constantly look for answers? Or perhaps resolution must be personal. Our God is a personal God after all, and faith in Him is more similar to faith in a close friend rather than faith in a concept. In the end, while there are no easy answers, it is more important that we struggle to find them.

SOURCES: 1. FEYNMAN, RICHARD. "WHAT IS SCIENCE?" *THE PHYSICS TEACHER* 7:6. (1968): 313-320. 2. ECKLUND, ELAINE HOWARD. *SCIENCE VS. RELIGION: WHAT SCIENTISTS REALLY THINK*. OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2010. 3. "JUDGMENT DAY - INTELLIGENT DESIGN ON TRIAL," "\_NOVA\_". PBS. 13 NOV 2007.

# Happily Ever After

ELAINE TSUI

**One kiss.** It took one kiss for a beautiful woman enchanted by a spell to wake up after being poisoned. A prince slides on a glass slipper and finally discovers his princess. Beauty tells her Beast that she loves him and breaks the spell that holds him captive. And they lived happily ever after. The End.

These are the stories that we were raised on and the movies that enthralled us as little children. We were spellbound, waiting impatiently for that "moment" when we knew that all was going to be okay. The darkness would be lifted. He/she would be rescued from danger, whisked away from evil, brought back to life.

We love stories like this. They make us laugh, cry, and imagine. But why are we so attracted to them? Could there be some sort of innate spiritual yearning in our hearts to be rescued? Is this somehow all about salvation?

Jesus is the hero, the savior, who satisfies our longing hearts and souls. His appearance wasn't as dashing as a young prince on a white horse, and there was no great fanfare surrounding his arrival. But whomever he came into

contact with woke up as from a long, dreary slumber and faced a new reality with a bang.

People were changed for the good forever. Prostitutes wept and led completely changed lives. Lifelong cripples walked then leaped for joy. Broken people everywhere became newly confident and filled with hope. The blind could see, and not just with their eyes.

People started asking questions such as, "Are you the one who was to come?" (MATTHEW 11:2 NIV) A woman confidently states, "I do know that the Messiah is coming. When he arrives, we'll get the whole story" (JOHN 4:25 THE MESSAGE). We ask such questions of our would-be rescuers. Jesus answers, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full!" (JOHN 10:10 NIV).

Jesus battled through hardships such as misunderstandings, rejection, suffering, heartache, and physical pain to get to us. His redeeming sacrifice woke us up from the lifelong spell that we had been placed under. And suddenly we were rescued. Only this time, we will live happily ever after.

No End.



ILLUSTRATION BY JANICE CHUA

# GRACE

DEBORAH KIM

Futile frustration, downright devastation and complete confusion,  
Hopelessness, obsessiveness, meaningless, powerless.

They say that you're always there,  
Always there to protect us, always there to love us, always there to comfort us,  
Always there for each and every one of us, for you and...for me.  
But are you? Where are you?  
Where are you now in my most desperate time of need?

Why can't I see you, hear you, feel you, touch you?  
Why am I trapped in this body, this world without a clue?  
Why do I feel my life is meaningless through and through?  
Why do these thoughts of discouragement attack me, I know is untrue?  
Why do the eyes of others concern me more than you?  
Why can't I touch you, feel you, hear you, see you?

Because I want to, I really do.  
I want to wake up in the morning not with the same irritating consciousness of repetition,  
But with an exciting, hopeful sensation and expectation that wonderful things will happen today.  
Because in you every day is a new day. Right?  
I mean isn't that what they all say?  
Better is one day  
Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere.  
Well your court is a pretty darn hard place to find, it's like a hidden lair.  
I don't know how King David did it, but it isn't fair.  
Because no matter how hard I try and I swear, that I do  
I just can't seem to find your court, your house, your presence.

Why can't I see you, Why can't I hear you, Why can't I feel you, Why can't I touch you?  
Why do you give me hope for the future, but abandon me in the present?  
Why do you torment me by filling me up with your love then by taking it all away?  
Why do you allow the distance in our relationship to augment?  
Why do you leave me to go off astray?  
And why do circumstances force me to wear this mask,  
This mask, so to please others and to hide from their judgment and criticism?  
Why, why can't I see you, hear you, feel you, or touch you?

I can't  
Of course I can't because I'm so caught up in MY own life, in MY goals, MY expectations, me, me, me,  
I can't see you because my eyes are blinded with the worries and fears of life.  
I can't hear you because my ears are filled with the noise of the world.  
I can't feel you because my heart is numb with sin.  
I can't touch you because I grasp in my hands golden idols of guilt and greed.

It wasn't that you weren't here,  
Because you were, you were here, near me all this time  
Wiping each tear,  
It wasn't that you weren't here,  
It was that I failed to open my eyes and see that you were there.

# DIVINE ADDICTION

APRIL KIM



My junior year in high school, someone offered  
me a cigarette outside my friend's house.

"Do you want one?"  
"I don't smoke."  
"Oh."  
"But, I guess I'll give it a try."

And all it took was just that one "try." For the  
next three years, I was a habitual smoker. The  
white cancer sticks caused me a lot of problems:

fights with parents,  
myself, and addiction.  
Everyone around me told  
me to quit, but the more  
people asked me to quit,

LAST SPRING SEMESTER, I STUDIED  
ABROAD IN LONDON. EUROPE WAS  
LIKE DISNEY WORLD FOR SMOKERS.

the more I wanted to continue. Whenever life  
got tough, I simply dug into my purse to grab a  
cigarette. I inhaled deeper with every drag be-  
cause when the pang of nicotine hit my body, for  
that one moment, my worrisome mind could rest.

Last spring semester, I studied abroad in London.  
Europe was like Disney World for smokers. Not  
only were they unusually cheap, but they were  
also accepted indoors. I was slowly turning into  
a slave of cigarettes. Sometimes the face of my  
mother came to mind and pain tugged at my  
heart. I knew just how much she wanted me to  
quit but every time the thought of her haunted me,  
I blanked it out by picking up another cigarette.

When I came back from London, I stumbled  
upon a reason to quit smoking. Growing up in  
a non-religious family, I had never witnessed  
faith in my life. I never knew what it meant to  
believe in something. My world was limited to  
human-to-human relationships and though they  
provided me with happiness, they never brought  
me real joy.

One day while stuck in traffic, I started reading  
the book of Matthew out of curiosity and I came  
across a verse that slapped me awake.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see  
God" (MATTHEW 5:8 NIV).

I parked my car on the curb and sat there for  
hours replaying all the things I had done in the  
past. Just how pure was I at heart? What about  
all my sins? What about the pack of Marlboro

Lights in my purse?  
I was shattered. I felt  
that with my nicotine-  
stained heart, I would  
never be able to see God.

Heartbroken, I started to ask for forgiveness. I  
wanted to hit rewind and rewrite the past. I just  
wanted to go back to the outside of my friend's  
house — go back so I could just say "no." But  
all I could do was let the tears run down my  
cheeks.

Amazingly, God lifted my head and wiped the  
tears off my face. His benevolent smile left me  
in utter awe. He took my hand and we started  
walking together. For the first time in the twenty-  
one years of my life, my restless mind was at  
peace. I knew there was someone there next to  
me, and faith promised me that it was going to  
be for ... forever.

I've been cigarette-free for several months  
now. I want to truly thank the Lord because not  
once did I get a craving. Call me crazy but I'm  
compelled to say that it's because my heart is  
overjoyed with His love, moving me to become  
addicted to Him instead.

# who am i?

ASHA DAVIDSON

It's a question heard around the world from the lips of people from all walks of life. It is the frustrated demand of a college student embarking on a four-year adventure. It is the quiet contemplation of an elderly man looking back upon his life. It is a question that all people ask at some point in their lives. As Christians, it may be a question we struggle with regularly because the values we have chosen to live by may not be the same ones encouraged by the society we live in.

The apostle Peter addresses his first epistle, "To God's elect, strangers in the world ... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God ... through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood" (1 PETER 1:1-2 NIV). We are God's elect — a chosen people. A little startling isn't it? It also says that we are chosen through God's foresight. No, we are not the recipients of heavenly salvation by coincidence; rather, God chose us before we chose *Him*. What an idea!

The next few verses read, "In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 PETER 1:3B NIV). It is, in essence, a spiritual makeover. He takes the old version of ourselves — our worn, tired, and dry souls — and transforms them into bright, radiant, enthusiastic spirits that live to serve God. Not only are we rejuvenated from the inside out, our "makeovers" endure in a perpetual state of existence. We are reborn into a *living* hope.

... WHO AM I?  
I AM SAVED.

We are believers. In a hope that lives? What does that even mean? It means that it thrives, it breathes, it perpetuates, it exists, it grows. It is something that we can rely on to keep our hearts lifted when we feel like sinking. This hope is a promise that will keep us motivated on this long journey — that "we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life" (TITUS 3:7).

Jesus Christ died for my sins. So who am I? I am saved. I am alive in the hope of a salvation that awaits me. I am indebted, but forgiven. I am a believer, but most importantly, I am His. We can be students, teachers, dancers, writers, musicians, scientists, lawyers, parents, or any other label that has ever existed, but as Christians we are *always* going to be something else first. We are, first, foremost, and always, children of God.

May the lyrics of this popular Casting Crowns song remind you of who you are, or who you could be.

I am a flower quickly fading,  
Here today and gone tomorrow,  
A wave tossed in the ocean,  
A vapor in the wind.  
Still you hear me when I'm calling,  
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling,  
And You've told me who I am.  
I am Yours. *I am Yours.*



# Eenie Meenie MINEY MO

MICHELLE CHUNG



**Have you ever realized how pop culture and media can subtly reflect God's message and great love for us?**

Recently I was debating whether or not to skip another day of quiet time with God to go hang out with my friends for the fourth consecutive day that week, when suddenly Justin Bieber and Sean Kingston's song titled "Eenie Meenie" played on my iPod shuffle. It was while listening to this song that I noticed God was subtly speaking to me at that very moment.

Funny as it sounds, God was calling me an "eenie meenie miney mo lova." He showed me that I was choosing between my worldly desires and God's desires for me, which was breaking His heart. He goes on to say, "Please don't waste my time, time, time ..." and how He "wish[ed] our hearts could come together as one," or so the lyrics go. I know you may find this anecdote silly and pointless, but it really got me thinking! How, and in what ways, does God speak to us? And how do we differentiate God's work from mere coincidence?

I'm not saying that all of pop culture and the media have secret biblical messages embedded in them. But every once in a while, I'll catch myself being reminded of God through mainstream American media. And this definitely gives me hope for the entertainment world. The immense power and influence of the entertainment industry could actually spread God's message, even unintentionally, to the world! Though

this sounds far-fetched, it has been on my heart and mind to pray for it.

In a world where there is so much hatred toward certain groups of people, violence between countries, twisted depictions of how to live our lives, greed, and the allowance of other people and things to determine your worth, I — and the Black Eyed Peas — have the same question, "Where is the love?"

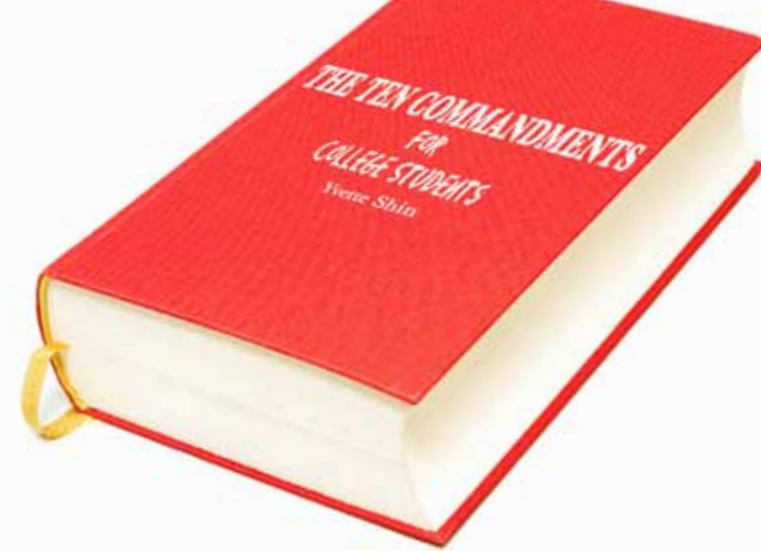
This is symptomatic of a world selfishly infatuated with itself. We have become our own idols and are oblivious to God's loving presence. What strength and control do we have over our lives to be at the center of it? What strength and control does *anything* really have to be at the very core of our existence?

The only reasonable answer I can think of is God. He speaks to us and works all around us, yet we often shrug off these possible acts of God, like my pop song anecdote, as nothing more than mere coincidence.

My optimism and hope are reflective of my faith in a God that loves me, has a plan for me, and is an integral part of my daily life. He is a great, awesome God that deserves to be the very center of our world. So the next time something coincidental happens, I really hope you don't let it go by without questioning whether it was just a coincidence or if it was indeed something with a greater meaning and purpose.

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

YVETTE SHIN



1. YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.



EXO 20:3

God must always be our top priority.

2. YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FOR YOURSELF AN IDOL.



EXO 20:4-6

We have a tendency to worship what we create.

3. YOU SHALL NOT MISUSE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD.



EXO 20:7

God's name embodies His essence and His power; it should not be mistreated or misrepresented.

4. REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY BY KEEPING IT HOLY.



EXO 20:8-11

God commands us to rest.

5. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER.



EXO 20:12

Respect mom and dad.

6. YOU SHALL NOT MURDER.



EXO 20:13

You shall not murder (Duh).

7. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.



EXO 20:14

Intimacy belongs within the boundaries of marriage.

8. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.



EXO 20:15

Respect other people's belongings.

9. YOU SHALL NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR.



EXO 20:16

Do not slander others; always uphold truth.

10. YOU SHALL NOT COVET ANYTHING THAT BELONGS TO YOUR NEIGHBOR.



EXO 20:17

Be thankful for what you have.

As schoolwork piles up, time grows short, and exams close in, God begins to slide downward on our list of priorities. Prioritize God by making Him a permanent fixture in your schedule. Dedicate a few minutes to Him each day and stick to it, even during exams.

We have become inadvertent idol makers, working tirelessly to create things that will 'save' us (career, identity, family). But salvation is God's work. The next time you're in Bobst pulling an all-nighter, terrified that you'll fail your Calculus midterm, remember that your salvation has already been provided in Jesus and that your future (at least in God's kingdom) is secure.

Shakespeare asked, "What's in a name?" Evidently God's name is loaded to the hilt. Yes, we know that God's holy, powerful name should never be used profanely. But God's name can be misused a number of other ways too, for instance, claiming that we are Christians and then acting unChristianly. Or praying 'in His name' to pass that class that you were too lazy to attend all semester.

Work has become the newest American idol. Plainly put, we are working ourselves to death. By creating the Sabbath, God incorporated a rhythm that balances work with rest, and optimizes both. Give yourself a break! God did.

Who honestly thinks about honoring their parents while away at college? Apparently, God does. Make your parents proud by studying hard, living with integrity and making sound choices while outside of their authority. And give them a call some time instead of waiting for them to call you.

The Sixth Commandment appears straightforward enough, that is, until you consider issues such as abortion, euthanasia, and the death penalty. And if this weren't complicated enough, Jesus added a surprising footnote, equating wrath directed at another person with murder. By this definition, who hasn't committed murder?

Yup, that's exactly what it says: no sex outside of marriage. Believe it or not, this command is meant to enhance, not hinder, our happiness. Sex is a celebration of love and commitment. It also unlocks our creative power to procreate. Casual sex may seem fun, but it degrades intimacy and complicates relationships. Don't settle for cheap thrills. God wants you to have the whole package — romantic love, a strong marriage AND an amazing sex life.

Stealing is more than plagiarism or eating your roommate's Doritos. Cheating on an exam and being irresponsible with debt can also be considered stealing. Supporting businesses that oppress the underprivileged and fuel economic injustice is an indirect yet more sinister form of theft. We may be tempted to point the finger at greedy Wall Street, but the truth is that those of us on Main Street are just as guilty.

Originally a command concerning due process, Jesus later urged an ethic of truthfulness beyond the court of law, resulting in the popular translation, "Do not lie." Dishonesty and deception are not only hurtful but dangerous. Indulging in gossip and rumors may be fun, but is the damage they cause really worth it?

To covet means to desire what is not rightfully ours. But is it really a sin to covet my friend's iPad, or my roommate's gorgeous boyfriend, or my classmate's new job at Google? It is if we fail to be thankful for what we already possess. Don't overlook the blessings of health, family and friendship. And remember that you are a child of God; everything that is His is also yours. Cool!

1. I have a real problem with the concept of prayer. How do I know it's really God answering my prayers and not sheer coincidence or my own efforts that cause things to occur?

Dear Seed Reader,

I am sure there are many people who have had this same question. In an age when scientific inquiry and an empirical view of what is "real" dominate culture, it is difficult to get a grasp on what a true concept of prayer is. We know it's important, though. In both Isaiah (the Old Covenant with the Jews) and Matthew (the story of the New Covenant in Jesus), the place people are to worship God is described as a "House of Prayer."

What is "prayer" exactly? Apart from a tedious word study in Hebrew and Aramaic, I suggest that you try and avoid "churchy" concepts, and begin with what the idea is to you. Talking with God? Communing with our Creator? Asking for help? If you have never felt connected to God through prayer, start there. For a Christian, connecting to God comes through the conviction that Jesus Christ was really God, who came to earth in the form of a person, and died a bloody death to satisfy the universe's laws of justice and doing right (see Paul's letter to the Romans, chapter 8). Even though He was innocent of going against God's just ways, Jesus voluntarily took on the death that those who do go against God (all of the rest of us) deserved. Because of his powerful self-sacrifice, His body and spirit came back to life, and He offers us an entré, as restored people, into God's goodness. Prayer for the Christian believer begins here, in forgiveness and restoration.

If you are a Christian believer, and still have difficulty, perhaps you simply need more practice. Pray anyway, in spite of what results you do or do not see. A famous Archbishop of Canterbury (head of the Anglican church in England) once said, "When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don't, they don't." Pay attention to the effect that your prayers have. See if you have the same experience as Archbishop Temple.

Another point to remember is that prayer (for the Christian) is never a monologue, but always a dialogue. Because we believe in a living Christ, and because one of His "parting promises" was "Another one like me ... A comforting Spirit of mine," (c.f. John 14:26) you can experiment in your prayer time with simply listening for God. Perhaps He has been trying to tell you something. If prayer can become (to you) a relationship, rather than a "practice," you'll begin to see all of the ways that God works in and through you to accomplish His purposes. Humility will begin to tell you that your efforts are nothing compared to the efforts God, through Jesus, makes all the time on behalf of peoples' salvation.

Source: 1. William Temple, <http://bit.ly/e755v1>

2. Recently my friend came out of the closet. I know the Bible condemns homosexuality, but it also says love your neighbor. How should I support my friend?

Dear Seed Reader,

I think that this question can be answered in the same way, whether or not you include the first two sentences. "How should I support my friend," is a great question for any believer who wants to learn to love any of his or her friends. It is the same no matter what sexual behavior(s) that person pursues. The message of the Gospel (the "good news" in the New Testament) is that we all can know God intimately, through the sacrifice (death and resurrection) of Jesus Christ (see question 1). None of God's grace and mercy is based on our behavior, only on Christ's behavior on our behalf. We only have to surrender to the fabulous gift (reconciliation with a just God) we have been offered.

Following that decision, we, ALL OF US, have the task of giving over our other "idols" and loyalties to God, until the Living God ultimately rules us completely (c.f. Luke 14:33). These idols can include sexual behavior (same-sex or not), materialism, pride, racism, greed, desire for status, educational achievement, fame, relationships, artistic accomplishment ... anything that takes our hearts away from

"As they left Bethany the next day, Jesus was hungry. Off in the distance he saw a fig tree in full leaf. He came up to it expecting to find something for breakfast, but found nothing but fig leaves. (It wasn't yet the season for figs.) He addressed the tree: "No one is going to eat fruit from you again - ever!" And his disciples overheard him.."

- Mark 11:12-14 (The Message)



Go **figure**. It seems some of us may have been barking up the wrong tree. Call it a **figure** of speech. Or just a **figment** of the imagination. We've been at this **fig**-titious ideal for far too long. Let's just **fig'**geat about it! Move on "newton" next one. I'm done hanging around this fruitless argument.

adoring God, and diverts us from listening to what God's plan is for us. According to one devotional writer from the last century, Oswald Chambers ([My Utmost for His Highest](#)), even the desire to be a "good Christian" can become an idol when we leave God out of the formula for our choices.

I like your question, because you quote Jesus, who gives you your own answer. Jesus Himself was asked, "What's the most important commandment?" He answers that His followers must, "Love the Lord your God, with all of your heart and soul and mind" (Matthew 22:37ff) (paraphrase mine). THEN, He says, they must *love their neighbor*, "as themselves." If you love God with everything in your life first, you will know how to support your friend. God will show you whatever you need.

3. As an art student, I'm required to sketch nude models in class. Sure it's awkward, but it's for educational purposes, right? As a Christian, should I be more bothered by this?

Dear Seed Reader,

Thanks for the concern, and for even bringing this up! It takes a lot of courage in today's culture even to suggest that you might be embarrassed by/have moral concerns about nudity and an absence of modesty! Good for you, for being honest about the true awkwardness we all experience naturally in potentially sexually charged situations!

More or less, nudity and body-exposure certainly varies from culture to culture and age

to age. Much depends on climate, family systems, reproductive norms ... and on and on. Even in what have been labeled "Christian" cultures, there have historically been a variety of practices. I think the crux of your question comes at the end, "As a Christian, should I be more bothered by this?" You need to answer that for yourself, through your own soul-searching and prayer time.

1. Is God *calling* you to be an art student? Your first question is to establish whether or not you are serving God through your studies; are you confident you are in His will for you right now?

2. Is this issue something that God is calling you to confront? Are you the one to voice a protest, to protect the "right to modesty" that other art students might have (religious or not)?

3. What should you/should you not accept "for educational purposes"? If you are confident that God is calling you into this profession (visual arts, I presume), then is this simply part of the training you need? Are there other areas in your life that God would have you examine this closely (say, Business School practices, or Student Government)? Are there any policies you adhere to that force you to compromise the ethic of honesty and transparency that following Christ requires? Perhaps this is God's way of moving you more toward a new sensibility of modesty and "otherness" ("holiness") that will be apparent both externally and internally.

Take time to embrace what God is telling you.

# { THE F%RMULA }

VICKY AHN

Have you ever stopped yourself from doing something because *people just don't do it*? I have. Like never asking that guy out because girls “aren't supposed to do that”; never joining that obscure club because your friends wouldn't join with you; or never making friends with “those people”?

I always knew that it was superficial to follow the status quo but conforming to social expectation has always been my way. Breaking free and following my heart's real desires was never easy to do. In fact, this fixed way of thinking can block us from fully engaging in a relationship with God and with others. Let me tell you how.

My sister was diagnosed with an intellectual disability at an early age. She had a difficult time in school because many kids rejected her attempts at friendship. None of her classmates were particularly vile or mean; they were probably nice, smart kids. But they lived according to the way society dictates. Society wants us to follow the formula: only make

friends with people like ourselves — people that are talented, people that are popular, etc. Society's formula is geared for the best of the best to have it all. It leaves nothing for those who are vulnerable and lonely.

What if God were like that? Imagine if He couldn't care less for sinners. That's a scary thought. Thank God that *His* formula is different from the world's! God's formula is geared toward us, the lost and vulnerable. His formula equates to our salvation and His unconditional love for us. We don't deserve His grace, the sacrifice of his beautiful, innocent son, Jesus Christ. It's amazing and unfathomable — but relish in it! God gave us the algorithm to live outside of the world's formulas and live in His inexplicable, nonsensical, amazing Love.

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (ROMANS 12:2 NIV)

## THE HAND OF GOD OR MERE COINCIDENCE? MICHELLE CHUNG

In a sermon titled, “The Power of the Seed,” Bill Johnson from Bethel Church explains how the way we think and view reality shapes our culture. He calls up a woman from the audience who had prayed for \$500 that morning. Unable to meet her need, he gives her a \$50 bill instead. He goes on to explain how within that \$50 bill was actually \$500.

Later that week, the woman goes to the market but while waiting in line to pay, she notices that the family in front of her is unable to afford their purchase. She gives them the \$50 to cover the charge. Later that same day, a man walked up to her and just handed her \$500. Johnson explains that inside every acorn is an oak tree, and that the renewed mind looks at the possibility within something small. How we choose to see these small acts determines how we think and shapes our culture. So what do you see, coincidence or divine providence?

## THE SACRIFICE

TERESA DOMBACH

Her eyes fluttered closed as she exhaled her last breath. She found herself in a meadow with a man whom her eyes didn't recognize, but her heart immediately knew to be Jesus.

She fell at his feet, with joyful tears streaming down her face.

“Lord, I gave up everything for you, and now to finally see you face to face,” she exclaimed while gasping for breath between sobs. “Sometimes I wondered why I was sacrificing so much — the poverty, the loneliness, working as a missionary, putting others' needs before my own day in and day out. The most difficult was trading my desires and dreams.”

Jesus gently held her tear-drenched face in his tender hands.

“My child, you didn't have to do any of that,” Jesus responded, a tear escaping his eye. “I wanted you to live and be happy — to have peace and joy, not to be burdened with sacrifices. Don't you see, I died so that you may live.”

“I know that,” she said with a peaceful smile. “And I did have life and peace and joy and happiness, my Lord. But I wanted to change the world and make a difference. I wanted to bring love to a creation that we broke. I wanted to follow you.”

## Spring

KOKEI OTOSI

What do you think  
Your veins are for?  
For living water from  
Them to pour.  
Through every hallow in  
Molded clay  
To chase down walls and  
Clear decay.  
A well —  
Let all who are thirsty come,  
And get a drink of  
The Son.

# Life is Simple

WILLIAM SHIN

Life is simple  
We make it complicated

Jesus said, "Trust in God."  
Children say, "I trust in God!"

Jesus said, "Trust in God."  
We say, "I trust in God, but...."

We always put the "but...."  
The world complicates our minds

God is our Daddy  
We are His children

Life is simple  
Let's just trust our Daddy



# IF I ONLY HAD ...

ASHLEY WAYNE

"YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE; YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S WIFE OR HIS MALE SERVANT OR HIS FEMALE SERVANT OR HIS OX OR HIS DONKEY OR ANYTHING THAT BELONGS TO YOUR NEIGHBOR."

(EXODUS 20:17 NASB)

"Wow, I wish I had her body," or, "You make friends so easily, it's not fair." We hear things like this all the time, right? Isn't it normal, even beneficial, to be motivated by the success of others since it drives us to work harder and aim higher? Not necessarily. God instructs us in the Ten Commandments not to covet the things that we do not have.

Coveting, that is, desiring what belongs to someone else, can be dangerous because God commands us to take joy in our situation. While it is hard not to feel that the grass is greener on the other side, we should trust that God's perfect laws work for the best.

Resisting the urge to covet can really help us be thankful in any circumstance. Jealousy often rears its ugly head bringing along with it pride and selfishness. It also hinders us from loving others completely in a Christ-like way. But God can do amazing things in our lives when we reject the temptation to envy and decide to trust in His provision for us. God is able to transform our jealous natures into humble, generous attitudes. We can become truly thankful and selfless.

At times it may seem that other people have everything you want: looks, great luck, romance, money, friends, etc. But when you are following the Lord's path, He will provide you with exactly what you need and even amazing blessings and love. While yours may not seem like the best situation, remember that God works for the good of those who love Him. Embrace and believe in yourself and make the most of what you have by putting your situation in God's hands.

Hugs	Free
Food at Seed	Free
Salvation	Free
His Love	Priceless

The logo features two overlapping circles, one red and one yellow. A white cross is positioned in the center where the circles overlap. The text "Master'sCard" is written across the bottom of the circles in a white, sans-serif font.

HANNAH NO

# KEEPING A HEALTHY TEMPLE

HANNAH NO

The cold brings on the cold. Lemon fights and cures throat infections and fever. Here is a simple lemon tea recipe to keep you warm and healthy for the holidays.

*"DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOUR BODY IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ... THEREFORE HONOR GOD WITH YOUR BODY."* (1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20 NIV)

## LEMON TEA

### Ingredients:

- 3 medium-sized lemons
- 3 cups of water
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tbsp. salt
- 5 cups of water, boiled
- Sugar



### Directions:

1. Create a soaking solution by dissolving baking soda into water. Soak lemons for 5 minutes.
2. Remove lemons from solution and dry. Rub with salt.
3. Soak lemons in boiled water for 10 minutes.
4. Remove lemons and dry. Cut into thin slices.
5. In a container, layer lemon slices/sugar/lemon slices/sugar like a sandwich. Use as much sugar as you like.
6. Allow lemons and sugar to preserve for one to two hours.
7. Place 2 - 3 lemon slices in your favorite mug and fill with hot water. Serve and enjoy!

*Note: You may substitute the sugar with honey, and the lemon with ginger or dates.*



DR. WILLIAM SHIN

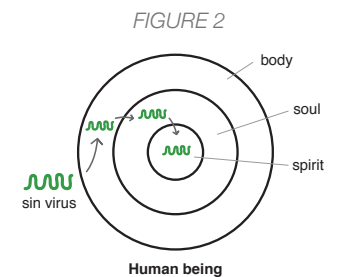
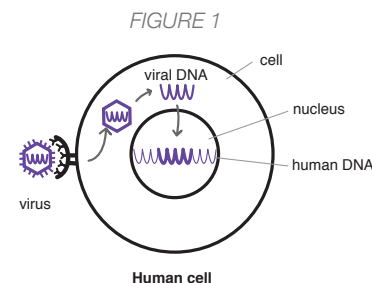
Sin is like a virus, a very sneaky microorganism. Some viruses are even known to cause cancer. The way sin destroys a person's soul is very similar to the way a cancer virus destroys the body. Once the virus enters the body, it invades the cell and penetrates the nucleus and then the DNA, inserting its own genetic material (Fig. 1). The once healthy cell is thus transformed into a cancer cell. The cancer cell then spreads, destroying the organ and finally the body.

In a similar way, sin enters the body, invades the heart, and penetrates the spirit. Once sin penetrates the spirit, it inserts its own "genetic material" and makes the spirit "sin-full" (Fig. 2). The entire person then becomes corrupted, with sin controlling the mind, heart, and spirit.

So what is the cure for sin? How can we remove sin from our bodies? If sin existed only in my right arm, I could chop off my right arm. But sin exists in my spirit, and therefore my entire mind

and body as well. The only way to remove sin is to remove my body — to kill myself. Death is the only way to remove sin. This is why Jesus, the Son of God, out of love, came down from heaven to this world as a man and died for us in our place. Jesus was physically killed on the cross. His death was the death of God in human form. Thus His death can be death for all people. When I believe in His death as my death, I have died spiritually, although I still physically live. Since I died, I died to sin. Hence, I am free from sin.

The Bible says, "The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (ROMANS 6:10-11 NIV). The death of Jesus is the only remedy for sin. At the cross all sins were forgiven and cured. My prayer, then, is that we may all come to Jesus at the cross and claim His death as ours.





## SEED PUBLICATION CLUB FALL RETREAT: "BE TRANSFORMED"

OCT 10-11

YVETTE SHIN

Transformation. Not only one of the most important themes in the Bible, but something that many passionately seek. Whether it is a beauty makeover or intellectual illumination, the hunger for transformative experiences exists in everyone. But only God can bring true, lasting change. He is the One who brings dead bones to life, changes water into wine, refines people through suffering, and renews their minds with truth.

On October 10-11, Seed members fled the city and escaped into the woods of Pennsylvania to learn about transformation. Through Bible study, lectures, prayer, activities, praise, and a zip-line, students discovered the many ways God produces change in His children.



PHOTOS BY REBEKAH SONG

## a TRUE thanks GIVING

NOVEMBER 15, 2010

NYU THANKSGIVING BANQUET  
ELAINE TSUI

On November 15th in Kimmel, NYU students enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner complete with turkey, sides, and cake along with residents from the Bowery Mission who graciously shared their personal life struggles and new-found dependence on God. For more information about how to get involved in volunteer efforts at the Bowery Mission, check out [nycurbanproject.com](http://nycurbanproject.com).



PHOTO BY MARY J. KIM DIAZ

## ON THE 29<sup>TH</sup> NOT ASHAMED

ELAINE TSUI

On the 29th of each month, students across the NYU campus wear bright yellow 'Not Ashamed' t-shirts distributed by United for Christ. Wearing these shirts reminds us of our unashamed beliefs, and unites and encourages Christian students across campus.



PHOTO BY KAM LEONG

## FASHION WEEK

KAM LEONG

Fashion Week was held for the first time at Lincoln Center but many shows were held all around the city, many that donated proceeds to worthy causes. Cheers to all for their generousities!

**SEPT. 9** The Reco Jeans Show at the Greenhouse Nightclub gave all monies raised to the Global Genes Project benefitting children affected by rare diseases and their families. Go to [globalgenesproject.org](http://globalgenesproject.org) to learn more about this important issue.

**SEPT. 11** Proceeds from the Manuel De La Cruz Spring 2011 show held at the Metropolitan Pavilion went to the Leslie Munzer Neurological Institute of Long Island, a non-profit organization serving people suffering from imbalances and neurological diseases. For more, see [lmni.org](http://lmni.org).

# HAPPENINGS



VICKY AHN  
CHRISSIE CHUA  
JANICE CHUA  
MICHELLE CHUNG  
ASHA DAVIDSON  
CARLOS M. DIAZ  
MARY J. KIM DIAZ  
TERESA DOMBACH  
APRIL KIM  
DEBORAH KIM  
JOHN KOO  
ALYCE LAU  
KAM LEONG

MARA MEASOR  
HANNAH NO  
KOEI OTOSI  
JOHN PARK  
JOSEPH SHIN  
WILLIAM SHIN  
YVETTE SHIN  
CHRISTINE SONG  
REBEKAH SONG  
REY SORIANO  
ELAINE TSUI  
ASHLEY WAYNE

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DEAR SEED CONTRIBUTOR

"THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE," ANSWERED JESUS, "IS THIS:  
'HEAR, O ISRAEL: THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE.  
LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL  
YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'  
THE SECOND IS THIS: 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'  
THERE IS NO COMMANDMENT GREATER THAN THESE."

MARK 12:29-31 [NIV]

[NYUSEED.COM](http://NYUSEED.COM)