

## P. F. Flyers

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Deuteronomy 29:2-5

Bunkertown COB

Mention the name P. F. Flyers, Keds, Red Ball Jets, or WGT's, and most people will remain clueless. These were sneaker brands available back in the mid 60's. I remember wearing some (the cheaper brands) and wanting others. P. F. Flyers made you fly like the wind (which I continually begged my mother to buy). Keds would stop on a dime (with their special "Sure Suction" rubber sole). Converse "High Top" sneakers were worn by anybody who was anybody. But me, I either wore sneakers from the W. T. Grant department store or the \$1.19 Skips that you could buy at Montgomery Ward. Mom did buy me a pair of high tops once (sneakers that covered a portion of your foot above the anklebone) but they wore out within a few weeks. Mom refused to buy them for me again because, as she said, "I'm not paying that kind of money for some shoe that's just going to wear out". Not much has changed, it seems. Even today, I only get at best a year and a half out of a pair of sneakers. Although it's better than a few weeks, I just expect more than that for my \$49.95. Does all of this make me sound old?

Things wear out. Sneakers become frayed long before I think they should (although considering they are on my feet, maybe it's best they don't last too long!). None of this is a surprise though. Not one of us expects our clothing and shoes to last forever (well, except for my mother). So if something would last longer than expected, it should naturally catch our attention.

The reason I started thinking about all this is because during my Bible reading a few days ago, I came across an interesting miracle of God. <sup>2</sup>Moses summoned all the Israelites and said to them, "You have seen with your own eyes everything the Lord did in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to his whole country— <sup>3</sup>all the great tests of strength, the miraculous signs, and the amazing wonders. <sup>4</sup>But to this day the Lord has not given you minds that understand, nor eyes that see, nor ears that hear! <sup>5</sup>For forty years I led you through the wilderness,

yet your clothes and sandals did not wear out.<sup>1</sup> (Deuteronomy 29:2-5). Moses points out to the Jews that during the 40 years they wandered around the desert, their shoes and clothing did not wear out. And the sad part is that this miracle went unnoticed. They did not have minds that understood or eyes that saw or ears that heard. What a waste! I thought to my self, now surely I would have noticed something like that. Surely I would have been able to give God the credit for doing something amazing in my life.

Most of us like to think that we would give God credit for doing something spectacular. But often times the miracles of God come in small, simple ways. Where a person crosses the street in front of us at the red light, causing us to wait long enough for the 18-wheeler to barrel through (which actually happened to a friend of mine). A doctor diagnoses a disease in its early stage based upon a hunch. A person just happens to notice the stranger at their neighbor's door, and runs them off because they had a "bad feeling". A friend of mine calls these God Moments, things that happen in our lives when we recognize the hand of God. But when asked to share these God Moments, most people come up blank. So busy trying to think of the big and the grand, they miss the subtle, simple ways that God moves within our lives day by day.

I know that at times God does the grand and glorious, but most of the time He is subtle and quiet.<sup>11</sup> The Lord said to Elijah, "Go, stand in front of me on the mountain, and I will pass by you." Then a very strong wind blew until it caused the mountains to fall apart and large rocks to break in front of the Lord . But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.<sup>12</sup> After the earthquake, there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire, there was a quiet, gentle sound.<sup>2</sup> (1 Kings 19:11-12). For most of us, there's a good chance that we will live our entire life hearing nothing more than the gentle sound; the simple and quiet works of God. But do we have eyes to see and ears to hear? Or are we merely looking for the grand and glorious?

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<sup>1</sup>Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. "Text edition"--Spine. (2nd ed.) (Dt 29:2-5). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>2</sup>*The Everyday Bible : New Century Version*. 2005 (1 Ki 19:11-12). Nashville, TN.: Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Some will say that on those days when something happens that causes us to pause; when we get that eerie feeling that something bigger than we realize has just happened, God has performed a miracle but is just trying to remain anonymous. However, God has no desire to keep Himself hidden from us, so why would he want to remain anonymous? In Romans Paul says, <sup>20</sup> **For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.** <sup>3</sup> (Romans 1:20). And I get the impression that God wants us to see Him and know Him and hear Him. But while we're waiting for the big handwriting in the sky, God is speaking in a simple small whisper to our heart.

The problem is that when we expect God to do something big, we miss the work He is already doing. God can be seen and heard each and every day in the small, simple ways He speaks and works in our lives. And I'm not talking about the Face of Jesus appearing in a block of wood or some cloud that looks like the hands of God. I'm talking about those moments when you get a sense that you've just experienced something divine. When you step outside after a storm and for some odd reason, the rainbow touches your soul, or when a particular sound in the symphony ignites a fire within your heart. When you look into the eyes of your child and your heart begins to race with joy. Even in that sense of satisfaction and accomplishment you experience as you look at what your hands have made. The mighty works of God are there, if only we will have a mind to understand, eyes to see, and ears to hear.

Well, before I go, I don't want to leave you feeling sorry for me and the allusive P. F. Flyers I so desperately wanted to wear as a child. I wear New Balance sneakers today, which took over sneaker manufacturing from Converse. Converse acquired the rights from Goodrich, which had taken over the failing Hood manufacturing company. Hood Manufacturing used to make the P. F. Flyers.

See, there's that eerie feeling I've been talking about.

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<sup>3</sup>Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. "Text edition"--Spine. (2nd ed.) (Ro 1:20). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.