

Center of Enlightenment



POP QUIZ

VERSION 2

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Pop quiz

Introduction

Good morning and Thank you, Rev. Carol for asking me to speak today. Thank you all for coming today. I appreciate your being here.

I hope everyone had a terrific 4th of July holiday.

This year I've been pushing myself, expanding my wings reading books, taking classes, watching videos, and working with a variety of people to help me on my journey. Each teacher whether author, speaker, or therapist, one thing I've learned is there always a Pop Quiz!

As many of you know, my husband, Tony, is a teacher and has many pop quizzes throughout the school year for the students. Recently he has had a pop quiz of another sort. Tony spent the winter working on one of his go-fast bikes. He loves riding his bikes around the area of Madison Heights, Royal Oak, Pleasant Ridge, Ferndale, Oak Park, and Huntington Woods. Some of those roads are not the best. He was out for a bike ride on the first day of summer vacation when the handlebars snapped on the bike, and he went flying over the bars and landed on his right shoulder. Talk about your pop quizzes.

Are you ready for one?

Yes, we're going to have a pop quiz right now.

Here is your pop quiz of the morning.

There is paper and pencils in each pew...

Question 1: Who gets pop quizzes?

Question 2: What do you get quizzed about?

Question 3: Where can a pop quiz happen?

Question 4: When can a pop quiz happen?

Question 5: Why do we get pop quizzes?

Question 6: How do we know we passed?

Body

Okay, let's talk pop quizzes.

Do you all remember the movie Speed with Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock?

Remember their pop quiz?

When Dennis Hooper asked Keanu Reeves:

Pop quiz, hotshot. There's a bomb on a bus. Once the bus goes 50 miles an hour, the bomb is armed. If it drops below 50, it blows up. What are you going to do?

I know our pop quizzes are not going to go like that; but some are intense and don't always have a happy ending. They all have a lesson that we need to learn.

So let's review our quiz.

Okay, Question 1: who gets pop quizzes?

We all do.

Each being on this earth and in this universe is chosen to receive a pop quiz. There are no prejudices on pop quizzes. There is no competition in pop quizzes. It doesn't matter if this person has more or less quizzes or this person has an easier test than that person.

Sometimes the quiz happens when you're with others and that can be a learning experience for all, or it may still be just for you. Others may not even notice the quiz as it's not for them. There is always a learning experience.

There are so many people that are seeking enlightenment, self-knowledge, and growth that we all get quizzed.

Alas, there are people who are clueless that a quiz has happened. They go through life unaware of the chances to grow and expand. There are those who blame others for their troubles not seeing them as the pop quiz there are.

Question 2: What do you get quizzed about?

They are all individualized.

As I mentioned my husband quiz it was for him, and him, alone.

Now that could have been Spirit saying “No, you are going to sit back and relax for a bit instead of going full force” all at once.

Or it could be a message to pick different roads to travel on.

Or it could have been a message to never work on your own bike.

Each quiz is a test. It can test your patience. Waiting on an injured person who is cranky or a child who didn't get their nap and is whiny. Those are two of my quizzes.

They can test your humility with a diagnosis of cancer for yourself or a family member or close friend. If cancer doesn't teach you humility, I don't know what will.

Quizzes can test your tolerance. Tolerance for others that are different from you. Tolerance for those who have something you don't or are less fortunate than you. Tolerance for your learning.

And all quizzes can test your wisdom. God, grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

Test your grace. Test your fortitude.

Question 3: Where can a pop quiz happen?

These quizzes happen anywhere. Everywhere.

Tony's was a couple of blocks from home. Thank you Spirit. Our neighbor was home and able to transport Tony to the hospital.

I've had many happen in the car. Orange light, orange light, do you stop? No, okay. Oh, thank GOD!

Are you running late? Was there an accident you would have been involved in? Don't forget: If you had left on time you would have missed it also.

Are you open to them happening anywhere? Are you closed when you're out and about? When you're running errands, grocery shopping, getting a haircut, or being with friends? Spirit is everywhere.

Oh, I'm in church now would be a good time!

I'm home meditating, Can I have one now?

Oh, I'm busy at work. I can't have one now. I'm in a meeting...

How many other times in your life has it been a good time to have a pop quiz?

Question 4: When can a pop quiz happen?

Any time.

Just like question 3; pop quizzes can happen any time, any place, alone or with others.

Yep, ask Tony. The first day of summer vacation. Not a week before school was scheduled to start back up, not when he had finished all his projects he had scheduled for the break, and not when he had ridden all the miles he wanted to for the summer. It was in the beginning!

I've had a lot happen here at church. I think I'm more open to learning and can I see them for what they are.

Since I've been working harder this year, I've tried to get them when they come up.

Question 5: Why do we get pop quizzes?

So we can learn. Learn about ourselves. Learn about our world.

Learn about the other people who are in our world.

So we can connect with Source. Without that connection we are lost.

So we can situate our selves in love. God is love. We are love.

So we can be authentic. I'm learning a lot about that. When are are our true selves we thrive. We step into everything we are and we are suppose to be.

So we can stop, take a moment, breathe, and feel the love, feel Source and answer the quiz, act to the questions, and know what decision we need to make.

When we answer with truth, faith, love, our answers are correct, true to ourselves, and in the face of God.

Question 6: How do we know we passed?

We know.

Sometimes we fail.

I've failed.

When I'm sitting in ego. When I'm letting others speak for me and give over my power. When I'm not connected to Source, My higher power, infinite intelligence.

When I'm sitting in love I pass. When I've understood the meaning and intent of the quiz to be in love.

When the physical is more important than the spiritual I fail. When I get caught up in the material instead of the comfort of love.

When I seek the answers, I pass.

Tony passed. He's not as frantic in getting everything done. He's buying a new bike. Safer. He did take it in to the bike shop to see if it could be fixed. They said NO! That there could be more fractures in the bike. He had no fractures. He added another project to his summer woodworking. He should be back on the bike by the end of the month.

Conclusion

Pop quizzes are not final exams. They are on the spot tests about life, love, faith, strength, courage, wisdom and trust.

They're about what you are doing at that specific moment. What is your intent?

They happen for a reason. To help us through life so we learn from our mistakes.

Each day there are there. Some are easy, some not so much.

Just remember:

Be in the moment and be ready.

Thank you.