

Picturing the U-A-O-Z-Life

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The First Birth into the Family of Creation “He created them in His image...” (Gen. 1:27)

The U-Life Challenge—Experience Life’s Realities “The Unbeliever” (I John 4:1-6) - “Meandering Emptiness”

Those *Blind to Jesus* can never escape the depressions of the U-Life — unsure, unsafe, unnecessary, unsatisfied, uninitiated, unaware, unconscious, unawake, unsaved. They miss the power and energy of cross reality and think it foolishness (I Cor. 1:18). The Great Shepherd has compassion on all His “sheep” by creation and will bless and/or use them in fulfilling His purpose as He pleases. He still wants all of them to come to repentance (Mk. 6:34; II Pet. 3:9). They know life’s battles but miss the necessity and joy of Messiah redemption. They endure the struggle of life without ever possessing the security and riches of their loving Creator!

They begin to give their purposes to ignoring Christ.

They Perceive the
Partial Picture
I am alive in a created world.
Romans 1:20

The Second Birth into the Family of Redemption “Renewed in the image of His Son...” (Col. 3:10)

The A-Life Challenge—Learn Jesus Truth

“The Baby Believer” (I John 2:12-14) - “Meaningful Discovery”

The *Children* learn the ABC’s of the Cross. They desire the milk of the Word as newborns who have tasted the Lord’s goodness (I Pet. 2:2-3). The children are untested in heavy battle. They rejoice most in receiving from God. They discover the goal reality of His love by meeting Him personally and knowing their sins are all forgiven!

They begin to give their time to knowing Christ.

They Perceive the
Small Picture
I am a new creation.
II Corinthians 5:17

The O-Life Challenge—Practice Cross Discipleship

“The Warrior Believer” (I John 2:12-14) - “Maturing Sacrifice”

The *Young Men* (Adults) learn the MNOP’s of the Cross. They know the difference between milk and solid food and recognize that speed and constant training are necessary to taste the wonder of righteousness and distinguish between good and evil (Heb. 5:11-14). The Adults gain differing degrees of experience and overcoming in spiritual combat. They rejoice most in achieving for God. They explore the depths of His Love! Their triune reality is to 1) grow strong, 2) be alive to truth and 3) defeat evil.

They begin to give their efforts to serving Christ.

They Perceive the
Big Picture
I am called to create.
John 14:11-14

The Z-Life Challenge—Demonstrate Messiah Love

“The Veteran Believer” (I John 2:12-14) - “Mastering Love”

The *Fathers* learn the XYZ’s of the Cross. These eager partners of righteousness and cross reality taste and eat Christ’s body and blood daily! They have a high level of participation in and understanding of the Savior’s Messiah heart, vision and passion (John 6:53-59; Phil. 3:7-18). The fathers are scarred but healed warriors of heavy spiritual combat. They rejoice most in believing in God. They manifest the presence of His love. Their One Reality is intimacy with the One Who is from the beginning.

They begin to give their life to dying for Christ.

They Perceive the
God Picture
I am one with the Creator.
John 17:20-24

THE PERSPECTIVE POINT: The Father has created our lives with a beginning and for a culmination. The process in between is called growth, which will be toward righteousness or toward evil. Upward growth toward righteousness is indicated by the four U-A-O-Z stages (I John 2:12-17). The Lord ordained physical and mental growth as well as spiritual growth as the pattern for all mankind. Abundant Life is to increasingly experience progress toward His Highest Purpose for our lives (Jn. 10:10). That purpose is to become a fragrance and reflection of the heart and mind of our Creator/Redeemer/Perfecter (Father/ Son/ Spirit) (Rom. 8:29; II Cor. 2:14-17).

Abundant life is most fully expressed when we respond to all things exactly the way Jesus would respond! This demands continuous commitment to learning His mind and practicing His heart! This means knowing much Scripture and increased yielding to His Voice! Abundant life is not essentially receiving more for yourself, but becoming more and more exactly like Jesus and then giving that revelation away (John 14:30-31). Abundant life is more than the privilege of receiving, it is possessing the power of giving His life to others (John 10:10). The U-Life is to following the path of the worldling according to I John 2:15-17. In Revelation 1:8 ... Jesus says He is the A to Z ... the first and last letters of the alphabet. In other words, "I Am the total package!" These levels (A to Z) are the basis for my ABC discovery (A-Life), MNOP exploring (O-Life) and XYZ expanding (Z-Life).

We should learn and master all we can about the Lord Jesus from A to Z! An ABC beginner's knowledge is inadequate if we are to "grow up" and be conformed to the image of Christ. We must aim for the XYZ's of Christ maturity while learning to overcome the MNOP challenges. U-Life people also have their different levels of growth (U¹, U², U³). We must seek to influence their vision for Messiah Jesus as we live out the process existence of our A-O-Z-Life. Remember always that authentic growth in Christ brings both gain and pain. Only in putting these two together as the Savior did, will we reign in life (Rom. 5:17).

Definitions of Destiny

A. The Directions of Life

U¹-Life — I live for self
 U²-Life — I live for success
 U³-Life — I live for significance

A-Life — I live to study Christ
 O-Life — I live to follow Christ
 Z-Life — I live to die for Christ

B. The Priorities of Life

U¹-Life — Exalting the Soul
 U²-Life — Following the Culture
 U³-Life — Seeking the Truth

A-Life — Learning Jesus Truth
 O-Life — Practicing Cross Discipleship
 Z-Life — Demonstrating Messiah Love

C. The Three Choices of Life

The U-Life — "I will play god" with my gifts and my years!

The Awakened U-Life — "I will seek God" with what I have while I can!

The A-O-Z-Life — "I will trust God" with my gifts and my years!

D. The Three Pursuits of Life

The U-Life — "For me to live is me!"

The Awakened U-Life — "For me to live is more than me!"

The A-O-Z-Life — "For me to live is Christ!"

Summary: The Key Principles of I John 2:12-14 and Revelation 1:8, 22:13

A-Life Disciples are the Children (the Newborn) who must learn the A,B,C's of being loved and forgiven by Jesus. These are the basic realities they must embrace. The children will taste the beginnings of abundant life! (I Peter 2:1-3; John 10:10). O-Life Disciples are the Young Men (the Adults) who are facing the realities of "the fall." They are coming alive to the Scriptures, overcoming Satan and growing stronger in the M, N, O, P's of what Christ can mean to their lives. These are the disciplines they wisely choose to endure. The adults will taste the beginnings of overcoming (John 16:33; Rom. 12:21). Z-Life Disciples are the Fathers (the Elders, the Veterans) who have an X, Y, Z grasp of the Father's creation, redemption and perfection purposes! They "glimpse most fully" the Godhead's magnificent "intent" "from the beginning" because they "know Him" most deeply. These are the disciplines the wise and mature hunger for! The fathers will taste the beginnings of eternity (John 17:3; I Tim. 1:16, 6:12; II Tim. 1:8-12).

Stay Balanced: Biblical Balance is not a static position to hold but a dynamic reaction to express that will please Christ in the moment as we listen to His Voice

Don't push these divisions too literally or mechanically. The Lord will deal with all of us at our U-A-O-Z levels as He wills, when He wants, as He knows is best. Wherever you might be in your various levels of maturity, just listen for His Voice, fill your mind with His Scripture and yield to His Guidance. A U-Lifer might see the vision of the A-Life. A Z-Lifer might slip back and make an A-Life decision. The O-Lifer might fear the cross of seeking the Z-Life. An A-Lifer might rise to a Z-Life decision and action, etc. etc. All of us grow differently according to our yielding, knowledge, gifts, placement and our Lord's timing. The essential and top priority is to "continue" growing, experimenting, yielding and learning with all due diligence and not shrink back! (Heb. 10:35-39). All of us should have the same supreme ambition so magnificently stated by the Apostle Paul, "For to me to be fully alive is Christ and to die is to gain more of Him!" (Phil. 1:21). Have no doubt, my friend ... this is a Z-level vision statement and passion. No goal is more paramount, majestic or illustrious for our existence here and destiny there! Let us vigorously pursue the A through Z Heart of Jesus! "I consider my life nothing to me ... I live only for the grace of God!" (Acts 20:22-24). Never stop flooding your mind with the Word³. I use the symbol Word³ to indicate the complete Word of God on earth. It is threefold ... the Living Word (Christ) - John 1:14-18 ... the Written Word (Scripture) - John 8:31; Acts 17:11 ... the Martyred Word (You) - Acts 1:8, 20:22-24. The Greek word for witness is martyr. The summary of Word³ is: We are to love Jesus madly, be master students of Scripture and be willing to sacrifice and die to make the Father's grace and truth known. That is exactly what He did!