

## What Is Life About?

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by Wayne Goff

**A** *parable about life.*

### Just Suppose...

Imagine with me if you will, two men named Bob and Joe. Both are seeking new jobs with a company and both are offered jobs provided they pass their 60-day trial. The boss has promised each of them full pay for the next 60 days regardless of how they perform. They can work hard or goof off. They can come on time or be late. They can learn the trade well and assure themselves of a future with the company, or they can coast until the end of the trial period. However, at the end of the 60 days, both will be called in to their boss's office and their performances will be reviewed. Both understand this and proceed with their jobs.

Bob is a hard, diligent, and conscientious worker. He does not know his job at first, but he slowly begins to improve day by day. He has a good personality, gets along with the other workers, and has a good sense of fairness, honesty, and integrity. When a particular job requires extra effort, Bob is willing to stay until the job gets done. If the boss asks him to work a little overtime, he willingly obliges. Every day Bob comes to work, he is on time. He dresses neatly, and he has good personal habits. In every way Bob shows himself to be an asset to the company.

Joe is impressed with the fact that his going to be paid *in full* for the next sixty days no matter what he does! He wants to be a full-time employee of the firm, and he begins in the first few weeks to come to work on time, to do exactly what is assigned him, and he rates at least average in performance, maybe even a little better. However, as the newness of the job wears off, so does Joe's performance. He begins to goof off whenever he thinks he can get away with it. Others at the company are doing this, so Joe figures that he will not work too hard either. He wants to get along with the other employees, but he notices that a few of them are, well, *jerks*. He confides this in some of the other employees at the water fountain, and during coffee breaks. Gradually, Joe thinks he has the confidence of enough people that he will be assured of a permanent position, so now his efforts slow down even more. He comes in a minute or two late every morning. When the boss asks him to stay and work overtime, he always has a reason why he can't stay. Before the end of the 60 days, Joe has shown himself to be a less than enthusiastic worker, and not too keen a personality either.

Finally, the day of review with the boss comes up. Both men show up for work and their interviews on time. Both men are dressed neatly, and both have great confidence that they will be hired for their respective jobs. Both are enthusiastic. However, the boss hires Bob and compliments his performance, while he tells Joe that his services are not needed! Joe is hurt and he does not understand. He thought surely that he would be hired. But upon closer reflection, he knows that he did not give his best, that he took his time for granted, and he figured he would get free pay for 60 days and possibly a job, too. But the boss saw through his facade, and refused to hire him.

### The Application

We can all see our daily lives men and women like Bob and Joe. We might even take the time to compliment the Bobs and forewarn the Joes. We can easily see why the boss hired Bob and not Joe. So what is the point?

The point is that **life** is like this story. God has given us our lives as a "60-day trial." We are being judged for the permanent place in the Lord's company based upon our performance in this life. God has put men here "that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far

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