

TAKING RISKS!

By Stephen Hicks

Just the other day I was watching the news and I heard a story about a young boy who had died while doing something the reporters referred to as dusting. Now being the ignorant country boy that I am, I didn't know what dusting was. I had always thought of dusting as what we did when we did the spring cleaning of our home.

As I watched the newscast with great interest, they flashed a picture of a can on the screen and I recognized it as a can of Dust Off, which I believed was nothing more than compressed air for blowing the dust out of hard to reach places like my computer keyboard for instance.

How could anyone die from compressed air, I thought to myself, as the news reporter began to go into a little more detail about the boy's death.

The reporter went on to explain that when they found the boy he was lying on the floor with the straw of the can still in his mouth. He apparently had put the straw in his mouth, pulled the trigger and inhaled the compressed air along with a gas that he knew nothing about. The gas closed off his lungs not allowing any air to get to his brain and he suffocated.

I grabbed one of my Dust Off cans from the shelf and began reading the back. At the very top it reads, in large print, "IMPORTANT: DUST-OFF IS A SERIOUS PRODUCT. INHALANT ABUSE IS ILLEGAL AND CAN CAUSE PERMANENT INJURY OR BE FATAL. PLEASE USE OUR PRODUCT RESPONSIBLY. It also said that product can cause frostbite on skin.

I thought to myself, "If this causes frostbite on the skin, imagine what it does to the throat, mouth, and lungs.

From what I gathered while watching the newscast, young people are inhaling this stuff just so they can feel a buzz as the oxygen is shut off to their brain. The problem is that the majority of them have either overdosed, or have caused serious damage by doing it.

When I was a teen, I knew a few people that liked to sniff spray paint fumes by spraying the paint into a brown bag, or Ziploc bag, then holding it over their noses and inhaling the fumes. They got the buzz they were looking for along with completely frying their brains to a point that now they have to be fed, and they just sit in a chair staring off in the distance unaware of anything going on around them anymore. They can no longer recognize anyone, and they can do nothing for themselves. This is the result of desiring a buzz.

They other day I heard about some parents who found their son in his bedroom dead from strangulation. Apparently he had heard that if he tied a string, or cord around his neck, hung himself and then right before he passed out, he would cut himself loose, that he would get a buzz from the lack of oxygen to his brain. He died because he passed out before he could cut himself loose. Quite often several students will attempt this as others watch them, putting their faith in their friends and hoping that they will release the noose just in time.

Sadly, these are just some of the deadly games that some young people are playing these days. They tempt fate in hopes of getting that small moment of a buzz. Some even see it as a short moment of escaping the realities of their lives, not realizing that they are just a split second from going from the reality of life to the reality of death.

No matter what the reason, no one should ever take chances when it comes to the life that God has given us. Maybe some of you know people who have taken some of these risks. If you know of someone, or even

hear of someone playing these deadly games, let an adult know. The person may not like you for it, but I know that I would sleep better at night knowing that I had made an effort to save someone's life.

Jesus was tempted three times by Satan in the wilderness. Let's see how Jesus answered him after one of the questions Satan asked. Turn in your bibles to Matthew 4:5 *"Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ⁷Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."*

Jesus quoted scripture to Satan and reminded him that the Word of God says that we should not tempt God. When we begin to take chances with our lives, especially as children of God, we are tempting God with our lives, and we are taking a very, very big chance. Cherish the life that God has given you and be proud of who you are and honor Him with your whole life.

Don't ever let anyone pressure you into doing something that you know is wrong. **It is better to walk away and be ridiculed, then to stay and never walk away again.**