

“What are you thinking about, dear?” asked the wife, interrupting the man’s train of thought.

“About how strong you are, my love, he replied, tenderly.

“We are both strong by the grace of God,” said the wife, lovingly, as she looked at her husband, with admiration in her eyes.

“And I think our daughter is, also,” laughed the man as the baby squeezed his finger which he had placed in her hand. Just then the doctor returned, “Have you thought of a name for her yet?” he asked. Both the husband and wife smiled, as they said simultaneously, **“Faith.”** (from *Stories of Love*)

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***Prayer to St. Anthony for the Health of an Expectant Mother and Her Unborn Child***

Glorious St. Anthony, you were blessed to hold the Infant Jesus in your arms. I come to you now on behalf of (mention name) who pleads for the health and safety of the child that God has graced her to conceive.

St. Anthony, guard this life God has created, and the mother God has chosen for this child. Let your gentle hand, like that of a skilled physician, aid in her delivery so that this baby will know good health and lasting happiness.

May her child be favored with the grace of holy baptism, and grow to love our Lord Jesus Christ above all else in this world. Amen.



## ***Have Faith***



***“ I knew she would be all right.***

***I knew God would hear and answer our prayers.***

***If you have Faith all is possible.”***

## Have Faith

“It is amazing!” exclaimed the doctor as he held the newly born baby in his hands. “Every time I deliver a baby, I am filled with wonder over the new life that has come to earth,” he continued, as he held the child in front of its mother.

“You have a beautiful baby girl; a blessing from God.” The mother looked at her child and smiled, nodding weakly in agreement, reaching out for her baby, which she then held close to her.

“She is beautiful, doctor,” said the husband and father, who was also there in the room. “Look at her little hands and feet; they are wonderful.”



The doctor looked once more at the baby girl, then back at the man, saying, “You are a lucky man. You should thank God for His blessings in your life.”

“I will, doctor, everyday; I promise,” replied the man.

“You know, I have delivered thousands of babies. Each time, I look at the child and wonder what God has planned for them to do in their lives, and I wonder if the child will be given the opportunity, help, love, and encouragement to respond to God’s call,” pondered the doctor.

“We will give her every opportunity. This is a promise we made to God before she was born, and it is one we intend to keep,” responded the father.

“I am pleased to hear that, and I will pray you will be able to do so. I meet so many parents who make promises to God before their child is born, but do not keep them. I hope you do,” said the doctor. He then continued, “You know, God has given you a wonderful gift, and with that gift comes the responsibility to help your child live as God wants her to. If

she can do that, her life will be a happy one, and I know that is what you want for her...to be happy.”

The father smiled at the doctor and moved to the side of the bed and began to stroke both the head of his wife and his daughter, saying, “This is what we both want...that she is happy.” As he did this, the father could feel and hear little sounds of what seemed like contentment coming from his newly born daughter.

His wife opened her eyes and looked with happiness at her husband. “We did it,” she whispered; “we did it.”

The doctor said, as he left the room, “I will come back later. You should have time together now.”

The wife, still looking at her husband and smiling, said weakly, “I knew she would be all right. I knew God would hear and answer our prayers.”

The husband, with joy in his face, replied, “Yes, God did, and everything is fine.”

The mother leaned forward and kissed her baby softly on the forehead. “If you have faith, all is possible,” she said.

The man stood there silently just thinking about all the difficulties in the pregnancy. Thinking about the other doctors who advised them to terminate the pregnancy, because they thought the mother would die. Thinking about the strength of faith his wife had to say no to an abortion, no matter what the risk. Thinking about the way his wife would tell them all, that God would take care of her family, and if she were to die so that her baby could live, then that, too, was God’s Will, and she would accept it.