

The Holy Spirit & Healing — Dave's Story — November 11, 2018

My name is Dave Fowler. My wife and I have considered The River our church for over 10 years now. When Tracey and I were looking for a church, we were pregnant with our now 9 (going on 19!) year old daughter Zoë, two years later we had our now 7 year old daughter Olive and in June we gave birth to our third daughter Trinity. When Tracey and I first started dating, Tracey always said she wanted to have 3 children. THREE CHILDREN?!?! But like any man who will say anything to keep his beautiful girlfriend happy, I agreed! *"Sure baby, we can have as many kids as you want baby, even a football field full! LOL!"*

No but seriously, throughout our marriage and early on, 3 children sounded like the way to go for us. So we got married, 2 years later, had Zoë Keely, two years after that, had Olive Paige and then 2 years after that we tried again — and again — and again until we started to wonder what happened? We kind of gave up as the years went by until Tracey started to have really bad abdominal pains. We went to the Doctor only to find out that one of her fallopian tubes had collapsed due to endometriosis, there were fibroids in her uterus, combined with moderate to high blood pressure. Needless to say, we gave up hope of having more children and counted our blessings with the beautiful 2 daddy's girls that we had. End of chapter right? So we thought!

Needless to say, Tracey and I found ourselves pregnant and expecting in September of last year! It was a miracle, an answered prayer, and God's testament to us that he had not forgotten us. And my ears leaped for joy when the Dr. told us the due date was June 25, 2018. Everything was going fine and on schedule with the Dr. visits, the trips to get the house ready, buying new clothes (because we gave away ALL of our clothes - some kids in this very church are wearing our donations!)

Until April came. We got some alarming news that the baby had grown to only the 4th percentile of growth. Normally, we were told, the baby should be somewhere in the range of the 80th percentile of growth considering how far along we were. To complicate matters, Tracey had developed pre-eclampsia which, to put it simply, is unusually high blood pressure. Left untreated pre-eclampsia can lead to serious, even fatal, complications for both mother and newborn. In addition to this, we were told that the placenta was over the cervix and we could have further complications. So we were put on an accelerated schedule, everything from monitoring meds, to increased sonograms to check on baby, several measurements, checking placenta, blood work you name it.... Tracey was put on modified bed rest and we kept praying for a healthy baby as she continued to grow and we just threw ourselves into preparing the home for our new arrival since we had till June 25th right?

Wrong. The Dr. was concerned about our June 25th due date and had moved the date up to Father's Day the 17th which, for me, would have been a GREAT Father's Day gift! Better than some cheap cologne and a homemade tie, right?? We had gone to one of our now many sonogram visits, to have the technician start acting all weird on us...asking us cryptic questions about how we are feeling etc. and that the Dr. would contact us about this day's results. We thought that was a head-scratcher. This was on the 8th. That evening we receive a call from our obstetrician, sounding somewhat frantic asking if we could be induced that night because she was concerned for baby because she was still so small, and based on the scans it looked like the baby was not getting enough nutrients. We rather panicked, not because baby may be in trouble but because the house was literally upside down getting ready for baby. IKEA parts all over the place! LOL! However, the Dr. said if not tonight then the 10th is the latest!

I won't go into all the gory details because child birth is SUCH a wonderful, lovely, non-bloody, non-crime-scene-looking and beautiful part of life...haha! But we almost had to have an emergency C section if Tracey wasn't the pro that she is! The baby was in trouble and every contraction the monitors told the story of her tiny heart slowing down to a very dangerous level. We had the crash cart and emergency crew all in the room. But let's just put it this way: our first daughter Zoë took 30 mins to push out of the "Fowler factory." Olive: 15 Minutes to push out the "Fowler factory". But sweet Trinity took a mere record-breaking Fowler best of just 5 minutes! I guess when Tracey heard that if she didn't get it done in one more push she was getting a C-Section caused her to turn into the Asian Wonder Woman and she propelled that kid out of the factory with the Flash quickness!! LOL!

However, when Trinity was born the umbilical cord was around her neck so tight and there was no time for me to cut it like I had done twice before. While I was relieved that she was finally here, she was blue and didn't move at first. They went into survival mode and got Trinity just in time...a few slaps on the buttocks and pure oxygen did the trick and she cried, the color came back to my baby and all was right in the world again. And I'm proud to say that I am now the proud father of 3 girls. And I live with a 4th: my amazing wife Tracey.

Her name, Trinity, has special meaning to us since she was truly a gift from God based on our journey from conception to birth. Not only that — she is our 3rd child our 3rd daughter and all 3 of our girls were born on a Sunday!

God is good all the time — but we had a LOT of scary moments! I wanted to share this with you because, throughout all of this, we never gave up hope, never stopped praying, never doubted or wavered in our faith in the Lord. God really does answer prayer. And we want to thank ALL of you, our church family, for your warm wishes, love, visits, clothing pay-backs :) Just everything. Thank you!

And hey, I may be out numbered by the estrogen count in the house, but I'm still the king of my castle! At least that's what Tracey and the girls allow me to believe!