The aim of this scientific study was to examine the experience of having a disabled child and what the sources of power were for the parents. The research questions are: 1. What are parents’ experiences of having a child with disabilities? 2. Which are the sources of power that allow the parents to be able to move on? The theoretical approach follows the tradition of caring science developed by Eriksson at the Department of Caring Sciences at Åbo Akademi University.

The methodology is hermeneutic. The data were collected through theme interviews with parents of children with disabilities. The transcribed interview text was analyzed with structural analysis according to Ricoeur. The naive interpretation, structural analysis and theoretical approach resulted in the interwoven, new understanding.

The study revealed 37 subthemes that condensed to 13 themes of the experience of having a child with disabilities. The power sources resulted in 11 subthemes that condensed to 6 themes. The essence of the experience was suffering with 14 subthemes. Among the sources of power in addition to the child, the caring conversation and the communion were the most significant.

The main findings of the study were the love between the disabled child and his or her parents. Love has a shocking, developing and growing force in itself, both for the child as the parent. This correlates with the finding that the child itself was the main source of power for the parents. This leads to conclude that it is not the child that causes the parent’s suffering, but the mourning of what was lost. What was lost was the healthy child that was expected. The love and the child herself or himself will help parents to acceptance and reconciliation.