

# W H I T E SPIRE

<sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.  
Hebrews 13:2 (ESW)

## ***WELCOME TO FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH***

Whether you're seeking God, curious about our fellowship, or attend our worship gathering regularly, you will find that our church exists to minister to the real needs of people with the authentic love of Jesus Christ. We invite you to experience the genuine worship, encouraging messages, friendly people and enjoyable atmosphere that are a part of our church community.



### ***A Note from Our Pastor***

***"I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly." - John 10:10***

This captivating statement from the lips of Jesus is the motivating purpose behind all that we do at First Southern Baptist Church. Our church is based on the belief that the Bible is the revealed will of God. Because of this, we strongly believe that God is good and has an exciting purpose for your life. We are committed to helping people of every age, gender, race, and denominational background discover and experience God's incredible plan for their life.

If you are not currently involved in a local church, or are looking for a church home, we ask you to consider becoming an active part of our family here. We truly believe you will be loved, accepted, develop relationships, and receive Bible teaching which will make a positive impact in your life.

I personally look forward to meeting you!

*Pastor Doug*

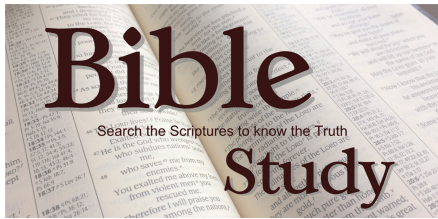
At First Southern Baptist Church, we are committed to **Exalting** God's Grace, **Growing** God's People, **Reaching** God's World, **Preaching** God's Word, and **Modeling** God's Love.

### **Service Times**

**Sunday School Hour.....9:30 – 10:30 am**

**Worship Service.....10:45 – 12 noon**

**Wednesday Night Prayer.....6:30 – 7:30 am**



# God's Power in my Life

## *Putting Things in Place*

Where do we get the power to live in today's crazy world? In a world where bad things happen to good people, a world where life is hard? Where do we get the power to live in a world that's filled with difficult challenges? Where do we get the power to keep going every day of our life?

The reality is that God never promised you or I that life would be easy. In fact, Jesus told us life would be tough, that it would be hard. We face life's challenges every day. To face the challenges and succeed we need strength, we need endurance, we need power.

Today's message is that you and I don't have to live powerless lives. God says, "I want you to have My power in your life today and every day."

Job is a good example for us as we think about how to handle difficulty and times where we're desperate for God's power. Job experienced some amazing "life challenges" including pain, suffering and mind-boggling tragedy, and yet he didn't run away from God.

**He said in Job 6:10 "At least I can take comfort in this: despite the pain, I have not denied the words of the Holy One."**

The words of the Holy One make us a promise. The promise is this... You and I can experience God's power in our lives and live the way He intended us to live and, when necessary, endure pain and hardship.

God doesn't want us to just talk about power. He wants us to live by it...

**1 Corinthians 4:20 "...the kingdom of God is not just fancy talk; it is living by God's power."**

**Psalms 68:35 "God is awesome... He gives power and strength to His people. Praise the Lord."**

Think about the words: "His people," We're going to come back to that at the very end of the message.

**Most of us don't question God's power.** We know that God is powerful. What we question is: **Is God's power available to me? And if so, how do I access it?** Those are the questions that we have. But before we talk about how to get it, I want to take a look at three experiences of life, three times in life where we struggle, and where God says, "I will give you power when you face these things."

### **When Can I Count on God's Power?**

#### **1. When I'm Tired**

**Isaiah 40:28 & 31 "The Lord is the everlasting God. He never grows tired or weary. He strengthens those who are weak and tired. Those who trust the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. He gives power to those who are tired and worn out; He offers strength to the weak."**

If you're an adult. If you have kids, a job, or some circumstances keeping you from kids or a job. Or if you're married, or just dealing with ups and downs of relationships... Whoever you are and whatever your life looks like, you're probably tired. Put this verse somewhere you can be reminded of it. God's power is unlimited. You can step into the grace of God and walk by His strength today. He never gets tired. He never feels weary. He has unlimited energy. And the coolest part... "He gives power to those who are weak and tired."

## 2. When I Don't Have Anything Left to Give

God says, "I'll give you power when you don't feel like you have anything left to give."

### **2 Corinthians 12:9-10 "God says, 'My power shows up best in weak people.'"**

Then Paul says, "Now I am glad to boast about how weak I am; I am glad to be a living demonstration of Christ's power, instead of showing off my own power and abilities."

God makes you a promise... When you feel inadequate. When you feel weak. When you feel like you have nothing to offer, He makes a promise, and His promise is this: He will give you the power you need to make it through the daily challenges of life.

## 3. When I'm In Pain

Pain is evident all around us. You don't have to look very far to see someone hurting from devastation and loss, or simply disappointment and frustration. You might not have to look any further than yourself to find pain.

Where do you go with your pain? God promises us power in the midst of pain.

### **Psalms 41:3 "The Lord nurses them when they are sick and eases their pain..."**

For Christians, God's power doesn't just pacify our pain. When we access God's power, it so invades our life that it satisfies our soul and changes our ability to walk through pain. We no longer need to just get over it, but now we can actually advance through it. We can experience the fullness of joy that is in a relationship with God and the powerful peace that becomes all the more evident as we're drawn in to Him, and by that same goodness and grace we can see Him do amazing things through even the most depressing circumstances.

## The Bottom Line

- When you are burned out and tired, God wants to give you His power.
- When you are feeling inadequate with your life, God wants to give you His power.
- God wants to give you His power so you can handle the pain that you're going through.

The good news of today is this: We don't have to live powerless, weak lives. God wants to give you His power so that you can experience the fullness of joy and promise of peace that comes from a life cleansed by the blood of Jesus and fueled by the goodness of God.

Paul understood God's power when he said...

### **Philippians 4:13 "I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me."**

Paul had the strength to face any condition of his life because of the power of Christ!

You may be thinking... “God may give Paul that power, but He doesn’t work like that with me. I’m just an average Christian. I love God but honestly, I’m fatigued, I’m tired, I’m stressed, my kids are out of control, my heart’s been broken, my prayers aren’t answered, I don’t see God’s power in my life.”

God’s power is not automatic. A lot of Christians live their life with no more power than a non-Christian. They may have salvation, but they live with no more power than a non-Christian.

There are action steps that you can take to receive God’s power.

### **If You Want God’s Power in Your Life**

**A = Admit You’re Weak**

Admit that you don’t have it in you to do life on your own anymore. Admit that you really don’t have it all together. For some of us, this is tough because...

- We are afraid to admit weakness.
- We would rather pretend that we have it all together. Or,
- We actually think we do have it all together.

When we pretend to be self-sufficient—and the key word is “pretend”—we short circuit God’s power for our lives. If you want to access God’s power, you start here. You admit that you’re weak.

The Bible talks a lot about pride. It tells us that God hates pride. Pride says, “I don’t need God.” Pride says, “I have it all together.”

### **Proverbs 29:23 “Pride ends in humiliation, while humility brings honor.”**

If you want God’s power, you have to humble yourself before God and say, “God, You take control. I’ll ride shotgun. You get in the driver’s seat of my life.” Then you open up the channels for God’s power to flow in. It starts with the admission that it will require God’s strength to advance you in life.

**B = Be Connected to The Source of Power**  
If you want power... Get connected to God!

**John 15:5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, (*those who are connected*) will produce much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”**

When you are connected to God, God gives you what you need to face the challenges you face.

**C = Choose God’s Way with Faith**

The Bible makes it very clear that God’s power and my faith are connected. For me to get God’s power, I have to make a faith choice. By faith I choose God’s way.

What does “Choose God’s Way” mean? It means I step out in obedience to what God calls me to do before the power shows up. *Before*. God wants us to take action before He supplies the power. Some of you may be thinking, “You mean I have to take action and act as if I have the power even before I have the power in order to get the power?” Yes! That’s where faith enters in.

**Hebrews 11:1 “What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen.”**

You act in faith. You choose God's way in faith and then God responds to your faith and He blesses you with strength and power. It works! There is a real connection at work.

B and C work closely together. When I'm connected with God, my choices become a lot clearer. They don't necessarily become easier, but they become more clear. I choose God's way and God says, "Ok, now My power is going to show up." He sees our faith and He turns on the power in our life.

The Bible teaches that God supplies power according to our faith. The same God who intervened and expressed His power throughout the pages of the Bible is the same God who says to you today, "I want to infuse your life with My power."

**Admit that you're weak, be connected to the source of power, and choose God's way with faith that God's power will show up.**

### **Making God's Power Real In Your Life**

If you're not yet a believer, and you're checking this whole thing out, we're thrilled that you would come and investigate Christianity with us. And... based on what we've talked about, you need to start walking in the direction of Christianity. Visit with us at Church on Sundays. Talk to someone who is really living the Christian life. Then, commit your life to Christ and God will give you what you need for whatever you're facing.

**Isaiah 40:31 "Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary."**

"Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength." You don't get the power without trusting in the Lord, in the person—the person is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is Lord. "Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength."

At the beginning of the message on the verse that says, "He gives power and strength to His people," we had you notice the words: "His people."

Now look at this verse...

**Romans 8:17 "And since we are His [people], we will share His treasures—for everything God gives to His Son, Christ, is ours, too..."**

If you are someone who has never opened up your life to Jesus Christ, would you do that now? In your heart say, "Jesus Christ, please come into my life and give me the power that I need. I want to live life Your way. I want to experience the Christian life!"

For the rest of you, what area of your life do you need God's power in?

Choose God. Choose God's way. Choose to follow God wholeheartedly. Choose to step into His grace and to experience the fullness of His power in your life.

**1 Corinthians 4:20 "...the kingdom of God is not just fancy talk; it is living by God's power."**

### **Reflection Questions**

1. What areas do I need God's power in?

2. What are some possible benefits of relying on God's power in my life?

### **Application Questions**

1. Which of the ABC's do I need to apply right now?
2. Who can I share this with? How can I encourage them to rely on God's power?

### **Prayer**

Father, I am so grateful for how you work in my life. I am so grateful that you have sought me out. That you want more than anything for us to know you and to live life amidst the struggles with your power. You want to give me power, and when I struggle I need to turn to you. I need to rely on you all days of my life. Please help me to walk forward with you and to acknowledge your ways and power forever. I pray this in the name of Jesus, amen.





## What happens after death?

Within the Christian faith, there is a significant amount of confusion regarding what happens after death. Some hold that after death everyone “sleeps” until the final judgment, after which everyone will be sent to heaven or hell. Others believe that at the moment of death people are instantly judged and sent to their eternal destinations. Still others claim that, when people die, their souls/spirits are sent to a “temporary” heaven or hell to await the final resurrection, the final judgment, and the finality of their eternal destination. So, what exactly does the Bible say happens after death?

First, for the believer in Jesus Christ, the Bible tells us that after death believers’ souls/spirits are taken to heaven, because their sins were forgiven when they received Christ as Savior ([John 3:16, 18, 36](#)). For believers, death means being “away from the body and at home with the Lord” ([2 Corinthians 5:6–8](#); [Philippians 1:23](#)). However, passages such as [1 Corinthians 15:50–54](#) and [1 Thessalonians 4:13–17](#) describe believers being resurrected and given glorified bodies. If believers go to be with Christ immediately after death, what is the purpose of this resurrection? It seems that, while the souls/spirits of believers go to be with Christ immediately at death, the physical body remains in the grave “sleeping.” At the resurrection of believers, the physical body is resurrected, glorified, and reunited with the soul/spirit. This reunited and glorified body-soul-spirit will be the state of existence for believers for eternity in the new heavens and new earth ([Revelation 21–22](#)).

Second, for those who do not receive Jesus Christ as Savior, death means everlasting punishment. However, similar to the destiny of believers, it seems that unbelievers also go to a temporary holding place to await their final resurrection, judgment, and eternal destiny. [Luke 16:22–23](#) describes a rich man being tormented immediately after death. [Revelation 20:11–15](#) describes all the unbelieving dead being resurrected, judged at the great white throne, and cast into the lake of fire. Unbelievers, then, are not sent to hell (the lake of fire) immediately after death, but they are rather sent to a temporary realm of judgment and anguish. The rich man cried out, “I am in agony in this fire” ([Luke 16:24](#)).

After death, a person resides in either a place of comfort or in a place of torment. These realms act as a temporary “heaven” and a temporary “hell” until the resurrection. At that point, the soul is reunited with the body, but no one’s eternal destiny will change. The first resurrection is for the “blessed and holy” ([Revelation 20:6](#))—everyone who is in Christ—and those who are part of the first resurrection will enter the millennial kingdom and, ultimately, the new heavens and new earth ([Revelation 21:1](#)). The other resurrection happens after Christ’s millennial kingdom, and it involves the wicked and unbelieving being “judged according to what they had done” ([Revelation 20:13](#)). These, whose names are not in the book of life, will be sent to the lake of fire to experience the “second death” ([Revelation 20:14–15](#)). The new earth and the lake of fire—these two destinations are final and eternal. People go to one or the other, based entirely on whether they have trusted Jesus Christ for salvation ([Matthew 25:46](#); [John 3:36](#)).

Blessings,  
*Pastor Doug*



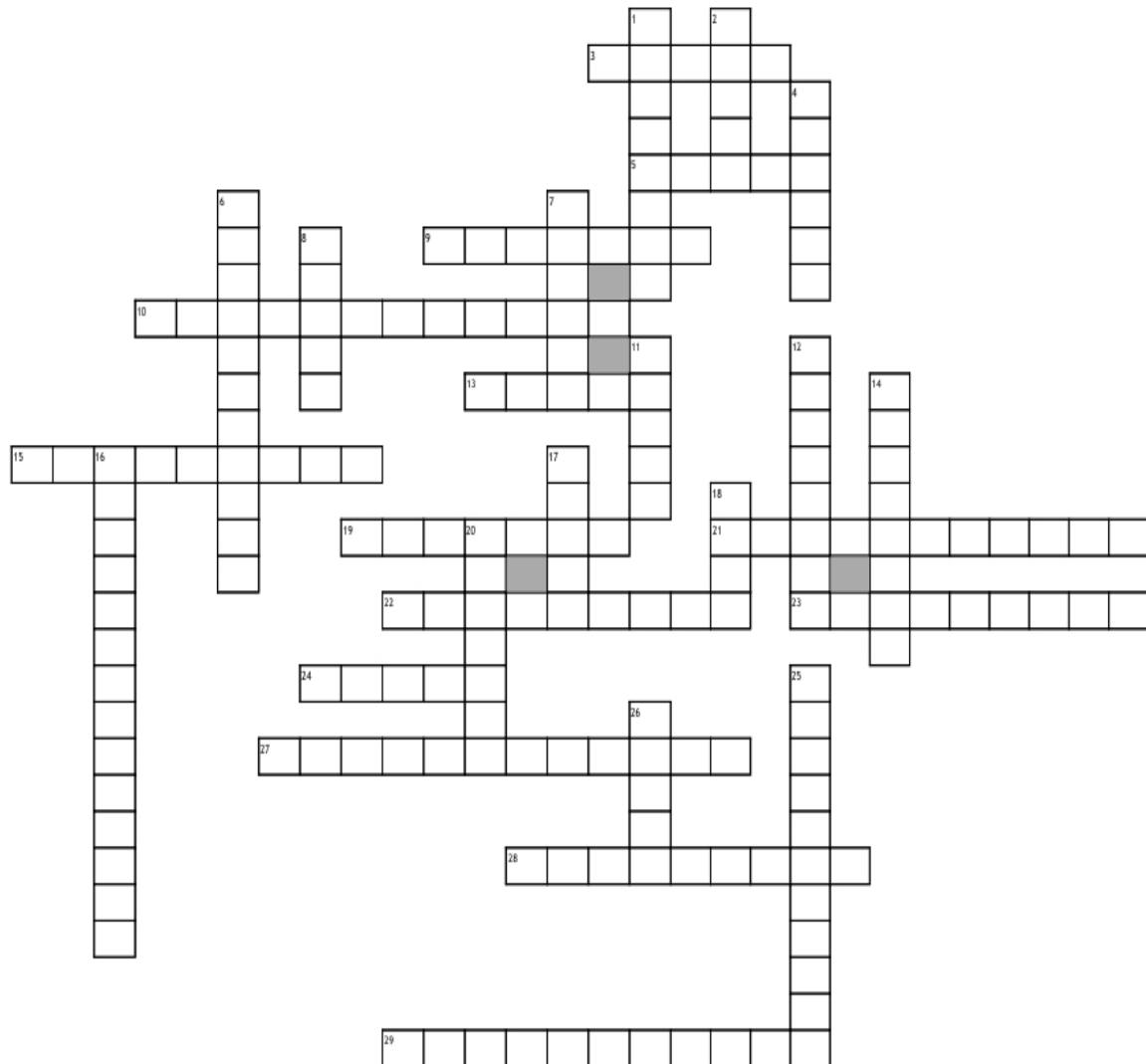
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2023						
1	2 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM	3 Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM	4  A.W.A.N.A. 6:00 PM	5 Yuma High School Girls Luncheon 11:45-12:15	6 Football Dinner  5 <sup>TH</sup> QTR.	7 October Fest 4 – 7 PM
8 Lord's Supper  Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM	9	10 Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM	11  A.W.A.N.A. 6:00 PM	12 Yuma High School Girls Luncheon 11:45-12:15 Volleyball Team Dinner	13 Football Dinner  5 <sup>th</sup> QTR.	14
15 Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM	16 Church Council Meeting 6:30 PM	17 Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM	18  A.W.A.N.A. 6:00 PM	19 Yuma High School Girls Luncheon 11:45-12:15	20	21 Men's Breakfast 7:00 AM
22 Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM  Movie Night 6:00 PM	23	24 Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM	25  A.W.A.N.A. 6:00 PM	26 Yuma High School Girls Luncheon 11:45-12:15	27 Football Dinner  5 <sup>th</sup> QTR.	28
29 Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM	30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM	31  Trunk or Treat Yuma 1 <sup>st</sup> Church of the Nazarene				



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Religion crossword



## Across

3. Holy text of Islam
5. an ethnic group that speaks arabic and practices Islam
9. a month when Muslims fast during the day
10. a religion founded by Jesus and Holy text is the Bible
13. an ethnic group in SWA that speaks kurdish
15. a Holy city for all three religions
19. a religion founded by Abraham and Holy text is the Torah
21. a community made up of people who share common cultural backgrounds
22. a holiday Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus
23. a place of worship for Jews
24. Holy text of Judaism
27. followers of Islam who believe you do not have to be a descendent of Muhammad
28. a holiday for Jews when Moses freed them from slavery
29. rules for Muslims

## Down

1. founder of Islam
2. a wall that is honored by Muslims because they believe it was built by Abraham
4. A place of worship for Muslims
6. symbol of Judaism
7. a Christian holiday when Jesus rose from the dead
8. founder of christianity
11. a religion founded by Muhammad and Holy text is the Qur'an
12. A place of worship for christians
14. an ethnic group in SWA that speaks farsi and practices Islam
16. a group of people who believe in one God and have unique customs
17. The Jews believe he wrote the 10 Commandments
18. followers of Judaism
20. founder of Judaism
25. followers of Islam who believe you have to be a descendent of Muhammad
26. Holy text of Christianity



# CHURCH

## WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

ALTAR  
 BALCONY  
 BELIEF  
 BELL  
 BENCH  
 BIBLE  
 BOOKS  
 BULLETIN  
 CANDLES  
 CHOIR  
 COMMUNITY  
 CONGREGATION  
 DOORS  
 FAITH  
 FLOWERS  
 FOYER  
 GOSPEL  
 GUESTS  
 MINISTER  
 PEACE  
 PEW  
 PIANO  
 PRAYER  
 TRAY  
 WORSHIP

S	N	I	T	E	L	L	U	B	C	E	R	H	O	W
X	W	O	B	F	E	I	L	E	B	I	C	E	C	E
M	R	A	N	Z	P	E	W	E	O	O	T	C	A	L
O	R	E	Y	A	R	P	C	H	N	G	A	A	N	B
T	S	L	T	W	I	A	C	G	I	U	G	D	D	I
R	G	E	G	S	E	P	R	B	S	E	F	O	L	B
A	B	P	I	P	I	E	E	K	B	S	O	O	E	P
Y	E	S	H	T	G	N	O	V	A	T	Y	R	S	I
I	L	O	N	A	C	O	I	T	L	S	E	S	M	H
T	L	G	T	H	B	X	V	M	C	X	R	Y	K	S
Y	T	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	O	A	L	T	A	R
D	O	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	N	H	O	R	B	O
N	F	A	I	T	H	E	R	B	Y	I	B	A	D	W

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.  
Find and circle each word.



# What items should be included in a church constitution?

There is nothing about church constitutions in the New Testament. The need for church constitutions arose due to legal issues. Churches may be incorporated, own property, hire staff, pay some kinds of taxes and be exempt from others, and run other ministries that may or may not be similarly tax exempt or have a different level of legal protection than the church itself. A constitution is a legal document that gives the church direction in ministry and protection from lawsuits. If the church clearly documents what it is, what it does, and why it does it, and then follows the plan consistently, it will have more legal protection as well as a unified focus.

Since there is nothing in the New Testament about constitutions, what should be included is a matter of opinion and expediency. That said, here are the most common parts of a church constitution:

*Purpose Statement:* This part of the church constitution should not only be biblically accurate but also legally astute. As long as the church acts consistently within its purpose, it will have less exposure to legal attacks.

*Doctrinal Statement:* This important part of the church constitution should clearly and simply outline what the church believes about key [doctrines](#), including the church's teaching on God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, salvation, etc. Following modern legal advice, many churches also include statements on cultural hot topics such as gay marriage, divorce and remarriage, sexual harassment, etc. While it would be much simpler to say, "We believe the Bible," clarification about what the church believes the Bible to teach is helpful because there can be much disagreement on key doctrines, even among people who say they simply believe what the Bible says.

*Membership Requirements:* The church constitution should clearly define who is a member of the church and what rights and responsibilities come with [membership](#). There should also be a statement about the process of church discipline (see [Matthew 18:15-20](#)). In today's legal climate, church members can sue churches over discipline issues.

*Leadership Roles:* The church constitution should clearly define the roles of church leaders, how those leaders are chosen, and how they are removed, if necessary. The constitution should be clear about who has the final human authority for making decisions: the congregation, a board of elders, etc.

*Procedural/Legal Issues:* With so many issues of church and state in flux today, the church has to be very careful about how it interacts with non-members. If the church allows non-members to rent its building for weddings, how will it respond when it gets a request for a homosexual wedding? If the church allows other organizations to use its facilities for meetings or community activities, can it deny usage by a group that is at cross purposes with the church? Will the church hire non-members or even unbelievers for any positions? If so, what are the lifestyle requirements for those employees? What are the requirements for staff or volunteers working with children? There should be consistent, coherent positions that align with the church's stated purpose. If a church rents its chapel for weddings simply to raise money, it will have a hard time justifying its decision to reject a gay couple. If the church rents its chapel as a way to help couples who belong to other churches of like faith, then the church has some justification for being selective.

*Provision for Amendments:* As the church grows and times change, new challenges will arise that may need to be addressed in the church constitution. When that time comes, how will the constitution be changed? The constitution itself should detail a procedure for making amendments.

Finally, the church constitution should be as brief and clear as possible.

There is usually no need for a church to write a constitution from scratch. It would be advisable to study the constitutions of several churches that are of similar size, doctrinal distinctives, and focus. Perhaps adopting the constitution of another church, in whole or in part, might be the most prudent path to follow. It would also be advisable to consult an attorney who is knowledgeable in church law to make sure that there is nothing included or excluded that would leave the church open for a lawsuit. No legal document is foolproof, and churches must rely upon the Lord of the Church for ultimate protection, but it is wise to use all the tools available to minimize risk.

# The Bulletin Board



A.W.A.N.A. every Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM.  
Prayer Meeting , Sunday Evenings at 5:00 PM.  
Lord's Supper, October 8<sup>th</sup>  
Church Council Meeting, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.  
Men's Breakfast, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 AM.



5:00 PM



Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM



Every Tuesday @  
6:30 PM

*NOTE: See Pastor Doug to have any future events placed into the monthly newsletter.*

*First Southern Baptist Church*  
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Yuma, Co 80759