Hagin, Kenneth E.
The Art of Prayer

4. Why Pray?

Hagin opens by asking why, as John Wesley said, God seems unable to act for humanity unless someone asks Him. He answers from Genesis: God does not currently rule the earth. He gave dominion to Adam, Adam handed it to Satan, so now God needs a person on earth to invite Him to work.

Key takeaways

- Wesley's claim: God is limited by our prayer life — He acts for people when someone asks.
- God is not presently running the world. Wars, suffering, and the lost prove His will is not being carried out here — except in lives surrendered to Him.
- At creation God gave Adam dominion over the earth, not 'I will dominate through you.' Adam was, in a sense, god of this world.
- Adam committed treason and sold out to Satan, who became 'the god of this world' and holds Adam's lease.
- Because Satan has a legal claim on the earth, God works here legally — through people who ask Him. That is why prayer matters.

Passages worth keeping

> *"It seems God is limited by our prayer life — that He can do nothing for humanity unless someone asks Him."*

Wesley's statement that frames the whole chapter.

How it connects

The chapter sets up prayer as the lawful way God re-enters a world He legally handed to humanity — a theme that runs through all intercession.

Scripture referenced

- **Genesis 1:26,27** -- God gives Adam dominion over the earth.
- **2 Corinthians 4:4** -- Satan called 'the god of this world.'
- **2 Peter 3:9** -- God not willing any perish — yet all aren't saved, so His will isn't forced.
- **Psalm 8:6** -- Confirms man's God-given dominion.