



**The Influential Mentor: Learning from Howard Hendricks
Season 5, Episode 3 Transcript**

[00:00:00.280] - Announcer

Welcome to the Gospel for Life Podcast. We help churches make disciples. Now Here's your host, Darryl Dash.

[00:00:09.670] - Darryl Dash

Welcome back to the Gospel for Life Podcast.

Once in a while, somebody comes along who is at the top of their game, but that's not the best thing about them. The best thing is that they are a man or woman of God. I've met a few of these people. You realize they are not only skilled, they are one of the most skilled people at what they do, but they're also very godly people, and you want to be around them. You're encouraged when you're with them. They leave a deep impact on your life. You learn so much about them, but what sticks with you is their character. I can think of a few people like that. Actually, two of them taught at the same school.

One was my preaching professor, Haddon Robinson, and I had the privilege of studying under him and seeing him almost every year towards the end of his life at a preaching retreat until he died. He was a renowned preacher. He taught preaching. But one of the things that stuck with me is that he was a remarkably godly man, a humble man, and he taught me as much about preaching as he did about life and ministry.

[00:01:22.540] - Darryl Dash

I'm profoundly grateful for him.

Another person who comes to mind like that is named Howard Hendricks. Hendricks was a professor, a speaker, and an author. As we're going to hear today, he had a huge influence on a lot of people. He was somebody who was both skilled and godly. Today, I get to interview the author of a book about Hendricks. His name is Maina Mwaura, and he is the author of a book called The Influential Mentor: How the Life and legacy of Howard Hendricks equipped and Inspired a Generation of Leaders. Maina interviews a lot of people. Over the span of four years, he noticed a pattern. He found that many of them were deeply shaped by Dallas Theological Seminary Professor Howard Hendricks. He wrote a book about this. He wrote a book about what was it about Hendricks that allowed him to shape so many lives?

I'm really excited to talk to Maina. He's a freelance writer. He's a journalist who's interviewed over 700 influential leaders, including two US presidents, three vice presidents, and a variety of others. Maina, welcome to the Gospel for Life Podcast.

[00:02:29.640] - Maina Mwaura

Man, what a great introduction. Darryl, that's pretty cool, man. He's going everywhere I go.

[00:02:37.130] - Darryl Dash

Gladly. I would love to. I have to tell you, it is intimidating to interview somebody who's interviewed so many people. So go easy on me today, man.

[00:02:45.260] - Maina Mwaura

That was really good. I'm going, okay, I want to take notes here. I got this intro from Darryl on this one. That was pretty good. I really hope no one who I interview ever get interviewed by you, Darryl.

[00:02:58.850] - Darryl Dash

That's great. Me. You're very gracious. That's good. I noticed that this is before I want to get into the book, but I noticed that you worked with Drew Dick at Moody, and he's a great guy. He's one of the funniest people, one of the greatest people I know. So tell me about Drew. Was it fun to work with him? I enjoyed it.

[00:03:18.330] - Maina Mwaura

Drew was amazing. I will tell you this. I don't know if I want to write another book, Darryl, to be honest with you, just because he was so awesome to work with. All of me thinks, I don't know if the next editor is going to be as great. I was hard to work with, probably, because I write articles and stuff, obviously. But when it comes writing a book, as you know, Darryl, it's a different beast. It's an ongoing article, probably, more than anything else. And he was just great to work with. I really enjoyed it. It was a full circle moment for him. And I got to tell you this quick story. He was like, I'll go 30 seconds, I promise, Darryl. Literally, when I first started in this field seven-plus years ago, I didn't know who to talk to, didn't know what to do about it. And Drew gave me my first \$50 start.

[00:04:14.550] - Maina Mwaura

So when I found out that he's going to be the adolescent editor to this book, I remember thinking to myself it all started with him. I'm praying that we're not ending it with him. I like this still. It all started with him, though. It was a full circle moment.

[00:04:31.770] - Darryl Dash

That's very cool. I appreciate in the book you actually talked about how it was sometimes hard to write the book, and sometimes you wanted to give up. I think every writer can appreciate that. A book is no joke. And especially when you're writing about some of his life. You want to make sure that you're doing justice to his life. I can appreciate how intimidating it would have been.

[00:04:50.840] - Maina Mwaura

You really do. It is no joke. I would tell anyone if they feel like God's calling them to do it, come and do it. Don't just let it sit there on yourself. Get it done.

[00:05:02.450] - Darryl Dash

Yeah. Well, I appreciate the book. It didn't take me too long to decide that I wanted to interview you to talk about this book and what you learned. So when did you realize that you had to write a book about how I'm going to Hendricks. I mean, it was suggested to you by people. When did you realize I've got to do this?

[00:05:19.290] - Maina Mwaura

Yeah, it was suggested, Darryl. It was one of those things where Howard came into my wife at a rough time, man, before the book even came onto the screen, to be honest with you, Darryl. It was one of those deals where all of a sudden I was taking my daughter to the pool one day. I love telling the story because she was a little girl then. She's now 10. And it was during COVID, and we had to make our pool time because we were designated for your certain times to be at the pool. And so she was in the background going, We have got to get out of here. And then there's Dr. Gene Getz, and just a great person and taught at Dallas as well, who's on the other side going, I think you need to do this. I said to him, I would pray about it. And I'm saying, Don't take too long on this one. When I finally gave into it, I was in the middle of a Kroger parking lot. Here's a grocery store chain here in this part of the world. And I said, I'm all in in the Kroger parking lot.

[00:06:24.950] - Maina Mwaura

So it was a full circle moment. And it was one of those things Darryl, where I never... I don't know how I would do. But Howard came into my life, though, had a really tough season and just a dark time right before the book. Yeah.

[00:06:39.520] - Darryl Dash

Well, one of the things you talk about in the book is that Howard Hendricks actually had some dark seasons himself. And I appreciate the honesty. I mean, he had a difficult childhood. And I think you tell a story about he was looking to be a pastor of a church. And one deacon basically told him, I'll never let that happen. And when he went to Dallas Theological Seminary, near the beginning of his teaching career, some

professors didn't want him there. I have to think that some of those setbacks actually helped him make him who he was. So how did these dark periods in his life help him to become such a person of influence? Do you think?

[00:07:16.430] - Maina Mwaura

Yeah. It's a good point, Darryl. It's one of those things where I think the best mentors are the ones that have real stories, if that makes sense, Darryl. The ones where the stories would not go on a movie screen, they would not be in a book maybe, but they're the best stories because that speaks of hardship, and it speaks of that you can overcome this, which is what Howard did. Every time he came to somewhere, it was one of those things, Darryl, that he was greatly rejected. And so rejection would have been one of the things of his life, literally, Darryl.

[00:07:56.010] - Darryl Dash

I mean.

[00:07:56.750] - Maina Mwaura

He mentioned a little bit he's brought into his life. He actually overhears his mom saying, You know what? I wish I never would have done this, man. I don't know if you can imagine. I can't imagine even hearing that. So we definitely starts off... It starts off bad. But man, did God have a... I don't want to say aha moment for him, but I do want to use up better words, but better words that God had his plan and His goals and his vision that he had for Howard's life right in front of him, ready for Howard to literally step into?

[00:08:36.880] - Darryl Dash

It's going to be hard to answer this question, I know. So it's really an unfair question. But I know a lot of great people. And Howard Hendricks, I never had the privilege of meeting him, but I know he was a great person. But not every great person gets to be such a mentor to so many people. It seems like some great people, they make a contribution, but they're not responsible for influencing a Tony Evans and a Gene Getz and an Andy Stanley and Chuck Swindoll and on and on. What was it that allowed Hendricks to influence, not just be great, but to influence so many people like he did?

[00:09:09.890] - Maina Mwaura

I think it's one of the first principles of mentorship, Darryl, is that he didn't see them as the influential leaders that we see today, to be fair. And they didn't see him as this incredible professor either, Darryl. I mean, you were those classroom experiences. You're sitting there and a professor just gravitates towards you and you go, Oh, I'm all in. And Andy Stanley said it best that he was literally... Howard was a household name that nobody knew about. And so it was one of those things or he could have been a household name. And that has never been more true, Meryl, when it came to Howard Hendricks. Because the truth of the matter is this, is that he could have been a household man had he not stayed in the classroom. He chose to stay regular, and he chose and made the decision on the line to, I'm going to fulfill God's calling.

[00:10:16.410] - Darryl Dash

Part of the book, you trace all the circumstances that led him to be called to Dallas. Really, it was something only God could have orchestrated that one thing led to another thing and that led to another thing, and he ended up by God's providence. On the other hand, you see that he was very intentional. I love how the two come together. God placing him in a position of influence and then Howard stewarding that and making sure, you know what? I can be used by God most effectively here or So I love how the two come together. God's working and Hendricks has enough strategy or strategic thinking to say, I think this is where God could use me the best.

[00:10:54.800] - Maina Mwaura

Yeah, it's interesting, Darryl, because one of those things where he wasn't wanted there either at first. And so the common theme for Howard's life is not be wanted. I mean, he was truly rejected on every quarter. He gets there, Darryl. I think it's just something for all of us to lean into from time to time. He gets there, and the professors just didn't like him. They thought, to put it nicely, that he spoke too much into culture. And I know I was listening to this, but I really do feel like there are moments that you're speaking in the culture. And if you feel like God calls you to be where you are for his people, there may be a season where those around you may not get it. I don't get why people would even remotely live in... No, I'm joking. Are coming in and like, they can't come off your show.

[00:11:55.870] - Darryl Dash

Yeah, the snow might melt any day here. Don't worry.

[00:11:59.110] - Maina Mwaura

But it's one of those things where Howard rose above the noise.

[00:12:05.880] - Darryl Dash

Right. Yeah.

[00:12:06.720] - Maina Mwaura

And he just decided, God has called me here. So I'm going to be here. I think it was more about calling Darryl than anything else.

[00:12:17.350] - Darryl Dash

You mentioned him speaking into the issues of the culture. I was reading your book and thinking, this guy was way ahead of his times. I mean, he was addressing racial issues when probably very few were within the evangelical church. There were a few times when he was way ahead of his time. So I think even being courageous enough to stick your neck out a little bit for what's right, even though it's obviously a cost him to do that.

[00:12:44.180] - Maina Mwaura

Yeah. Howard really pushed me in point, Darryl, to a large degree in the sense of, okay, are you willing to do anything for me? I mean, me is God. Are you willing to risk it all? Are you willing to go to places that people may look at you and go, Why is he there? I'll give you a prime example. Mrs. Hendricks, who was just great about this whole entire process. Howard would literally teach at an all-black seminary. And it was during that time and age we're used to cross certain lines. And Dallas was definitely one of those cities there. I'm just using across certain racial lines, man. And so Howard decided he's going to teach this all-black seminary, and Mrs. Hendricks was just like, I just want to see this in action. What she wanted to teach something with them went back. And as

soon as the car pools up, she tells a story about how all these students just sworn the cars because they were so engaged with Howard. And I just got to say that there's something to that in the sense of that in Dallas at that point in that day and age, that would be a city that would end up assassinating a US President.

[00:14:01.140] - Maina Mwaura

In fact, that here is Howard going against the grain, man. But he did that often, not just Grace and other areas, too. The first time he gets to Dallas, I mean, he's just on fire for outreach. I don't know about your gift, Darryl, but my gift is definitely evangelism, man. That old word, if you want to say, our reach people who are far from God. Howard embodied that too, and the seminary president told him, You need counseling. Wow. And the saying that you needed counseling during that day and age, Darryl, now counseling is widely accepted, thank God. But back then, though, Darryl, it just wasn't. Man. So you needed counseling is an insult, to me, to say the least. It's literally saying you are nuts. And that's the culture that Howard stepped into there.

[00:15:02.930] - Darryl Dash

Wow. That's amazing to think of. How could we look at somebody and say, You're too evangelistic. You need counseling.

[00:15:11.090] - Maina Mwaura

I'm not doing counseling. I mean, you love people too much. I guess if someone's having counseling, I'm all in Darryl. Count me in on that. But Howard really had to overcome a lot of rejection. I can't imagine what that had to feel like. How are we coming from a home where he wasn't wanted? I mean, he's now at a school where he's not wanted, and he's being told go to counseling.

[00:15:41.200] - Darryl Dash

This is good news for a lot of us who feel like, man, maybe other people get all the breaks, but we don't get all the breaks. The fact that God was able to use this man who didn't catch a lot of breaks and yet he was faithful and used by God so powerfully.

[00:15:56.160] - Maina Mwaura

He was faithful.

[00:15:57.640] - Darryl Dash

That's.

[00:15:58.370] - Maina Mwaura

The word for him. Now, is that he didn't see. In fact, he would have disliked this book. I would have been. I'm going to call my attorney.

[00:16:11.560] - Maina Mwaura

I mean, nothing about him wanted to see a book at all. His kids told me that. He wouldn't want this. But we felt like we had to do it to show people, Hey, no matter who where you are, where you're at, what you're doing, God can use you too. And you never know who may be in your presence or God may be using to another level of influence.

[00:16:42.960] - Darryl Dash

I want to ask you about that. The fact that I think one of the temptations that a lot of us face is making things all about us. Our ego, it doesn't take very much for us to think we're a big deal. He was very reluctant to make ministry about himself. You tell the story about an opportunity came up for him to be on the radio, and it took the encouragement of others to say, You need to do this, because he was scared of getting out there and making a name for himself. I love the quote in the book. You say, you're quoting Hendricks. He said, God is not looking for more stars. He is looking for more servants. How did he manage to do that? In an age where we see pastors and big ministry leaders falling left and right because it really seems that they become maybe seduced by pride. How did he manage to avoid some of the traps of making ministry all about himself?

[00:17:38.500] - Maina Mwaura

Yeah. Darryl, I think he was wired to remember his calling. And so it was one of those things where... And there were moments where he wanted to get out of the classroom, Darryl, and he just decides, God's called me to do this, so I'm going to do it. And I think he remembered that calling. And Darryl, I think he, in some form or fashion, we remember where he came from. I think he definitely remembered who called him that yet. And in a culture where it is all about us. I was interviewing on someone recently, and this is like, I had two years with Howard Hendricks, which I deeply enjoyed. And so I remember walking away from that book and then walking away from the interview I had recently with the great civil rights leader, Ambassador Young. And I remember walking away, coming home and telling my wife, When I look at Howard Hendricks, when I look at Ambassador Young, I haven't done. I'm so done correct. I'm a tourist. I've never been in that. I've never done what God's called them to do, and they're both masters. I just go, researching him and writing on him made me ask God, help I doing everything that I need to be done for his mission.

[00:19:02.560] - Maina Mwaura

Howard saw the mission.

[00:19:06.810] - Darryl Dash

You've interviewed a lot of great people. Even in this book, I am amazed by the people you got to interview. I think one of the lies we can buy into is that, okay, there's great people out there. I mean, Howard Hendricks was one of them, but I'm not great. I'm just an ordinary guy. God could never use me. Of course, God uses people like Hendricks because he was extraordinary. What would you say to somebody who feels that way?

[00:19:29.100] - Maina Mwaura

Yeah, two things. First of all, Howard did not see himself as extraordinary. It's weird whether it's him or Ambassador Andrew Young or whoever it is in someone's mind, they don't usually see what they're doing as extraordinary. And I think that's the key to be fair with you. Howard just saw himself as doing what God called him to be and to actually do. And so he didn't see it, number one. Number two, Darryl, he didn't seek it either. And

so I was talking to some of them here, I was talking to tell anybody's toes who were listening to this. I was talking to some time that day, I hear another ministry friend, he goes, You know, I have a brand. And as he said that, Darryl, all of me just like, it was like, screeching, chalk on, nails. Because Howard didn't see himself as a brand man. He really saw himself as an ordinary man who he was asking God to use. So there wasn't a hidden motive there of, Well, if I do this, how get to Andy Stanley? Or if I say this then I'll to Bruce Wilkerson. He really was a...

[00:20:42.960] - Maina Mwaura

God called me to do this, and I'm going to do it to the best I can. And to be fair, although teaching was the tool that God used to be really honest with you, Darryl, he really loved more than anything else, his discipleship. In fact, he actually continued those after he had retired, in fact. So he was still getting someone to drive him in to do those, the discipleship group in the morning, early in the morning, they're all on that thing.

[00:21:14.740] - Darryl Dash

Yeah, that's amazing. One thing I appreciate in the book is you write about not just his strengths and his successes, but his struggles. For instance, I think in the book, you pointed out sometimes he overworked at different parts of his life. I got the impression that his kids would tell you he wasn't the perfect father. Somebody in the book mentioned that he could be demanding. They found him a little bit difficult to work with. How does this help us to look that even somebody like Howard Hendricks was a combination of strengths and weaknesses, and yet God still used him. How does that help us? Because, man, I know I'm full of weaknesses. I know that for a fact.

[00:21:53.630] - Maina Mwaura

We wanted to be intentional. Honestly, we, Drew and others wanted to be intentional that we included the weakness standpoint. I want to start with these kids first. His kids were... I don't know what they would say whether he's a good father or not. I think they would all say he was a good dad, by the way. But I will tell you that all three of them, two and three were defenders of him. I mean, to me, to me, to me, Per, I actually had lunch with one of them along the way here. And what I realized was that he may not have been the best father on paper, per se, because he worked even when he was on

vacation. I mean, they worked. It was one of those things where I was the best dad, I guess, on paper. But I will say all three of his kids are in ministry today. In fact, one of them is leading the Howard Hendricks Center on the DTS campus. It's one of those things where they're all in ministry. Mrs. Hendricks is an supportive and lovely, best wife ever goes to her because we could have done this project really without her, which I tell all the guys, Be careful because you never know if you may die first and your wife is still here to tell others about you.

[00:23:22.330] - Maina Mwaura

But when you look at him, God used his weaknesses before his good. Because here he was struggling to be a dad. But he wrote some of the best family books, in fact. Our, for example, when it came to being hard to work with, I think a lot of that was that it was a fight to get to where he was actually accepted at Dallas. I think some of that was he had a hard fight to get there, which is still a lot of excuse for him. But it gives you a reasoning behind it. With Howard, what I learned was we all have weaknesses, but God really does want to use those for his good.

[00:24:08.520] - Darryl Dash

Yeah. One story I love in the book is Gene Getz coming to him and saying, How about we team teach? And Hendricks was like, I don't think so. I don't think that to me. It just reminded me of David. Somebody comes in with Saul's armor, and he's like, No, I'm good. This is not me. He seemed to be comfortable with knowing maybe not a bad idea, but it's just not me. Yeah.

[00:24:30.080] - Maina Mwaura

He was so honest about those. One of those things where Howard made me more honest, Darryl, to be fair, and I was dishonest. I said that either I want to be clear on that, Darryl, but you have to be a lot more honest with people to literally to say no. And in fact, a lot of leaders who I interviewed said how they were able to say no was because Howard taught them that. Yeah. So here's Gene Getz, who's one of the best. Howard comes to him, and Gene says, he says, No, I am a soloist. Sorry, Darryl, we're very loud of you now. You do duet, I'm a soloist. That one that you guys told me that I could literally get the phone with Darryl and start laughing, not point to a video. Because

it's so funny to hear it on the other end. Also just resonates where in a culture, in a country where we're taught to, man, you want to always got to be nice. Here is Howard still being nice, but still saying, It's just not me. I wonder if we said that more often, what could God do in us if we did say, He's just not called me.

[00:25:50.660] - Darryl Dash

To that. Yeah, there's a freedom there, right? Just being honest and saying, Yeah, it doesn't fit me. I can't do it. Yeah, that's really freeing.

[00:26:01.410] - Darryl Dash

Another Doctor Getz story. I love this. Although, I have to say, one of the more convicting stories, challenging stories for me in the book, he took Dr. Hendricks out for dinner near the end of his life and said, I just want to tell you how much I appreciate you, how you've impacted my life. Hendrick said back to him, Gene, out of the thousands that I've taught, not many have shared their appreciation. Then you mentioned after that, Gene Getz, when he would talk to people and they'd say, Oh, man, Howard Hendricks influenced my life. He would ask them, Did you ever tell him that? And if they said no, he would pull out a cell phone and say, Let's call him right now and you can tell him how much he's influenced your life. Why is it that we wait till somebody's gone too... It's too late at that point. Why don't we encourage people? You think of the debt of gratitude that was owed to him. Why are we like that? Why are we so slow to express appreciation to people who've influenced things like that?

[00:26:57.450] - Maina Mwaura

I don't know. I do think life just goes by so fast that we don't seem to stop and go, Wait a minute. We're not going to be here forever. I would tell everyone this, because what I learned this process is, if I have a copy right here next to my desk, every day since the book has come out, I decided between now and Labor Day here in the States to literally send a copy to someone who would just say, Man, I appreciate you. Honestly, Darryl, I thought I'll probably get 20 copies in. I'm going to run out of doing this. Literally, I'm now up to 60 of these where I've been sending out letters folks going, Thank you for this. And just when I think I can't send no more of this one down, it's one of those things where some more just pops back up, man. I just want to thank you because I do think

we should do that now. I think of all the pastors out there who are day in and day out, they just love it on their people, man. I just want to personally say to them, thank you.

[00:28:04.870] - Maina Mwaura

Because the truth of the matter is it's usually the bigger guys that we tend to say, all the applause, man. I'm not too sure that they get it either, to be fair. I think that's definitely something we say they get. When I'm talking to the Mega Church pastors, they'll tell me, I don't think that either. I just want to tell pastors in general, thank you for what you do just because we don't get to say that enough to the folks who are doing the hard work and Howard did the hard lifting, lifting students up in his classroom to go out there and serve. It's a hard calling that a lot of pastors find themselves in. It doesn't mean anything from me, but I hope what we will do tell them things.

[00:28:59.050] - Darryl Dash

Well, one thank you can just count for a lot, especially in this season where I think many of us are just feeling the weight of ministry. Just to hear, you know what? God's using you. I appreciate you. That can make a world of difference.

[00:29:12.790] - Maina Mwaura

Yeah, absolutely. And Darryl, and I hope this book does that for folks. They just see God can just use an ordinary person for him. And you may not know the impact. Howard's been gone for 10 years now, man. And when this project first came to me, honestly, Darryl, I thought to myself, I guarantee somebody has written on his life. And so, Darryl, honestly, I were Googling it after I came back from the pool, obviously, just to tell Gene Getz, see, here's a book here. And the more I kept looking, there wasn't one. And I was thinking, Man, after all these years, oh, man. I hope that people get to see this book and go, Man, thank you. Yeah.

[00:29:58.900] - Darryl Dash

The next question here, I'm not going to ask you who the best interview was or anything like that, but I want to maybe ask you a more personal question. Was there one interview where afterwards you're just like, Man, that has impacted me. This one, I'm

going to have to think about it for a while. This one is going to probably dig deep into my soul. Was there one that stood out to you that way?

[00:30:24.030] - Maina Mwaura

Yeah. I'm afraid to answer this question, Darryl. Here's why. Because my wife would say, if you ask him that today, there's going to be one person going.

[00:30:32.140] - Darryl Dash

Totally different. Yeah.

[00:30:33.170] - Maina Mwaura

But for today, Darryl, we're going with probably... Yeah, there's two of them in my head right now. I let the reader decide on one of them. But Andy Stanley is one where long after we're gone from someone the impact still goes on. Another one is this story. There was this who comes out in the middle of the civil rights era, man, and this story had rejection also before he got to DTS of a church that just didn't want him in fact. Another influential leader comes into play in that story, which I'll read that. So here is this student trying to get in to DTS, and Howard goes to bat for him. Literally, Howard goes home, Darryl, going, I'm going to quit if they don't let this guy in. He was furious. You got to remember, we are in the middle of the civil rights era here in the States, and race was front and center. A lot of people thought this country would not make it during that season. And so Howard goes to bat and he goes, This guy is worthy of getting in. He has what it takes. We're going to let him in.

[00:31:54.220] - Maina Mwaura

And Tony always remembered that story. And that Tony by the way, is Tony Evans.

[00:32:03.310] - Darryl Dash

Yeah, incredible.

[00:32:04.220] - Maina Mwaura

That's who he opened the door for. And good mentors open doors.

[00:32:09.570] - Darryl Dash

Yeah, that's so powerful. I want to ask you how you are a different person as a result of writing this book. It's clear you are.

[00:32:19.930] - Maina Mwaura

Yeah. I love these interviews, Darryl, but I really don't.

[00:32:26.090] - Darryl Dash

The.

[00:32:27.270] - Maina Mwaura

Interviews remind me that this chapter is coming to an end soon. I get missing out about that in some ways, Darryl. So I don't want to cry on your program here. I got to spend two years with them, and every morning it would be getting up, crafting, researching, interviewing, whatever that assignment was for that. He made me a better Christian. I don't know Jesus makes us a better Christian, to be clear on that. But Jesus used him, frankly, of their Christ-follower. At the same time, Jesus has used Howard to remind me that we're all going to leave here one day. I know it's always to think about that because we're in this life now. And so how can this ever come to an end? What it is. And so God used Howard to help me think through, Man, am I going to serve you no matter what? Am I going to do whatever it is? Because Howard was a trailblazer in many ways. Am I willing to do anything for you? And at the same time, who am I mentoring also?

[00:33:43.780] - Darryl Dash

Yeah, that's good. Well, I really appreciate your book. I want to ask you two personal questions that maybe are more general if you're game with that. What has God been teaching you lately? Not necessarily book learning, but just what lessons has God been teaching in your life?

[00:34:01.460] - Maina Mwaura

One of the things that he's been teaching me is to rely on him. That's tough to do in a culture where we're taught not to do that. Honestly, too. And to take a look at and to step outside of our bonds. For people who are far from God, like am I doing everything that I can for his kingdom? Not mine, but for his kingdom. And at the same time, God taught me through Howard, this came to my life in a really dark season that even in dark seasons, God is at work.

[00:34:42.410] - Darryl Dash

Yeah. And what has been encouraging you lately?

[00:34:47.040] - Maina Mwaura

Oh, no, Darryl, this question is hard. I don't cry during this time. Three years before I got to the Howard Hendricks Project, we were... I don't normally tell the story. I've only told it, I think, twice, Darryl, also. I don't know what it's about you that I'm going to tell the story, but here it is. Three years before this project, we were broke, really, really broke. I've done ministry for one year in my life. Steeped in this calling of journalism thought. I'm going to go headstrong and get it. And boy, did I into a wall and we're a break. And so when I meet Howard Hendricks, I'm literally like selling books from a used bookstore. And I found a copy of his first one in the midst of that. And then the midst of that, I was working for an organization, which I still love, Walk to the Bible, shout out to them. And I was doing some work for them. And so in order to get... This is a teaching moment. I was at this restaurant two weeks ago on the corner from it. In order to get my check in zero, get to the bank in time, man, I'd have to go pick it up on Thursdays.

[00:35:54.410] - Maina Mwaura

I'd have to go pick it up on Thursdays, dude, and I'd have to wait in the lobby, Darryl, for them to read the check to me. And all of Howard Hendricks's books were on the wall. And so for about 18 months, I would literally go check in, go grab a book and read before about Howard, our curriculum. Go read O'Ready, put it back on the shelf. You know what?

[00:36:21.310] - Darryl Dash

Wow.

[00:36:22.230] - Maina Mwaura

Then what God was doing in the midst of that was he was giving me a crash course to Howard Hendricks. Yeah. Well, different dark seasons, I don't tell anyone this, evening or dark season, God is at work.

[00:36:36.830] - Darryl Dash

Yeah, that's so good. The name is Maina Mwaura. It's been so good to talk to him today. The book is called The Influential Mentor: How the Life and Legacy of Howard Hendricks Equipped and Inspired a Generation of Leaders. This interview has only scratched the surface. I think you're going to be challenged and encouraged as you read the book. I hope you pick it up. I can honestly say meeting somebody, like for me, it was Haddon Robinson, but it sounds like Howard Hendricks was exactly the same guy to learn from him to get to know his life, the hardships, the lessons, and how God used them. Man, you can't find many people like that. So when you do, hitch onto them and learn everything you can. So, mine, I'm so grateful you wrote the book, and thank you so much.

[00:37:18.410] - Maina Mwaura

This is so much fun. You got to come to me everywhere I go to because this is really good. First of all, the intro, I am really going to get this intro down. Like mine, Darryl, is like five seconds. Oh, that's not good, but I enjoyed this.

[00:37:33.370] - Darryl Dash

Well, it's been a great talking to you. I'm looking forward to reading more of your stuff. It might not be a book, as you say, it may be, but whatever it is, I'm looking forward to it.

[00:37:40.940] - Maina Mwaura

It's a lot of fun. Thank you, Darryl.