



Don't Survive - THRIVE!

by Marshall Sylver

Last night at midnight I was sitting on the balcony of the beach house watching the waves. The temperature was perfect, a totally quiet night except for the hypnotic, rhythmic crashing of the waves. (Heck, yes, I love this stuff!) I had just gotten off the phone with my production manager for the live show we are putting into Harrah's, and was taking a few moments before I needed to get in bed and get some sleep. As I sat there feeling very grateful as always, I saw the moon was reflecting on the water in such a way that the distant reflections on the furthest waves were more like little explosions of light. A fireworks show just for me! I must be hypnotized. It got me thinking about things, such as why was I so special that God would put on this show just for me? An even bigger question was, how did I get here and how can I continue to inspire others to do the same?

Five years ago I was going through a divorce from a marriage that lasted 11 months (the divorce proceedings took four years – don't ask), and put me over seven figures in debt. The church that I was attending ended up being a cult whose only agenda was to take total control of the minds of the congregants and milk them for all their money (you can imagine how that went over when I exposed them!). I was being falsely accused by a government agency of a wrongdoing that would ultimately take me four years and hundreds of thousands of dollars to successfully prove my innocence. I had just found out that in the midst of all my challenges that my best friend had embezzled almost a million dollars from me.

As a man who has spent his entire life in the public eye performing and teaching, this was an extremely tough time. In the past, when I needed an ego boost or validation that all the challenge was worth it, the reinforcement would come in the form of a chance meeting with a seminar attendee or someone who had seen the show. Their exclamations of how I had changed their lives or that mine was the best show they had ever seen kept me focused on getting living rather than getting dying. During this troubled time, the government saw fit, since they had no authentic case, to attempt to put me out of business by piling on negative publicity. Since 95% of the world is led around by their noses by the other 5%, I would encounter people from time to time who, rather than compliment me, would believe what they saw or heard in the press and throw an insult my way. As a man whose whole life had been in the service of others, this was the toughest blow. I

