

## Rich Mullins

A Two-Minute Thought by Eric

I heard a song a little while back that brought my earlier years as a Christian rushing back to mind. It was the song "If I Stand", by Rich Mullins. You see, when I was younger, I listened to what my brother listened to, for the most part. He went through a "Hank Williams Jr. Phase" that I have yet to figure out, but that's for another counseling session. Anyhoo, he listened to Rich Mullins among other Christian artists. His music was an influence to me musically and spiritually. Rich wasn't perfect and he never pretended to be. What he was was Real. He wasn't a "manufactured" Christian. He was unique because he was just an average guy who could sing to the world a message of Hope. He didn't sing particularly great, but he sang with a purpose and from the heart. He was contagious with the Holy Spirit and it was obvious. In a word, it was refreshing.

And then in an instant, he was gone.

That rocked me hard. That event didn't destroy my faith, by any means, and over time it simply blended away into the timeline of events that filled my life from that point forward. It must have been several years since I really paid attention to him, his songs, or his ministry. And then one night as I was bending nails and that song came on the radio. And I cried. Partly because the words hit me in a way that they hadn't before. It was like listening to him pray through his music. It isn't a complicated song, but sometimes the simplest message is the most effective message.

I was also sad because it just felt like Rich Mullins wasn't finished singing yet. It seemed like there was more for him to say. So, there was this strange longing in my heart that wondered what songs were left unsung. That sadness turned to Hope as I began to think about where he is today. And it's just something else to look forward to when Jesus calls me home with Him. Maybe God wanted to hear his songs first-hand? Maybe the songs in his heart were too beautiful to keep here on earth? Who knows? I just know that I can't wait to hear them, too. But until that day, I will sing along with his prayer the best I can.

*So if I stand let me stand on the promise that you will pull me through,  
And if I can't, let me fall on the grace that first brought me to You,  
And if I sing, let me sing for the joy that has born in me these songs,  
And if I weep, let it be as a man who is longing for his home.*

Amen and Amen.