



To order [Struggling to Kneel](#)

Struggling to Kneel is inspired by a powerful story told by Attorney General John Ashcroft about the day he was to be sworn in to the United States Senate.

J. Robert Ashcroft spent that day impressing on his son John, the importance of humility and a right attitude for prayer. While many had gathered around Senator-elect Ashcroft, to pray for him, his father, was struggling to get out of the couch in which he had been seated. The soon-to-be Senator told his father not to struggle to stand. His father replied, "**John, I'm not struggling to stand. I'm struggling to kneel.**" Mr. Ashcroft Senior died the following day. The story is recounted in the book, [Lessons From a Father to His Son](#) (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998).

"I remember meeting General Ashcroft at a private reception in Washington. I was pregnant at the time with our daughter, Madysen, so the idea of struggling to kneel was as real to me as it was metaphorical! General Ashcroft teared up, as did the whole room, when he recounted the impact this tender moment had on his life. I hope this painting reminds us of our need to struggle to kneel. . . ."

*. . . Shortly after a period of fasting and prayer in early February, my husband Kevin suggested that I paint the subject *Struggling to Kneel* so that we could one day present the original to General Ashcroft. I thought that was a nice idea but wondered when we would ever see him again. Little did I know that just three days later, we would be invited to be a part of the Placer County Republican Gala where Attorney General Ashcroft would be the featured speaker! The event was held in May and we presented *Struggling to Kneel* to him. He was at a loss for words!"* -- Marnie Freeman

