

Knees First

Dark Country Gospel | 68 BPM | Key of Em

Structure & Key Plan

Intro / Verses: Em (minor, sparse, fingerpicked)

Chorus: lifts to G major for brief hope, then drops hard back to Em

Bridge: modulates up a whole step to F#m

Final Chorus: back to Em, thicker arrangement

Chord Chart with Lyrics

Intro (sparse fingerpicked acoustic + subtle slide, deep reverb)

Em | Em | C | G |

(let it breathe)

Verse 1

Em

He built his tower out of gold and grit,

C

Laughed at the prophets, said “I’ll never quit.”

G D

Drank from the holy cups like they were his own,

Em

Raised a glass to the gods he’d carved from stone.

Em

The writing hit the wall in the dead of night,

C

Kingdom weighed and found wanting in the flickering light.

G D

One breath he was king, next breath he was gone...

Em

Pride don’t leave no survivors when the fallin’s done.

Chorus (lift to G)

G

It’s knees first, boy, that’s the only way down,

D

When the Lord decides to take your crown.

Em

All that swagger turns to dust in the rain,

C

Only empty hands can catch the grace.

G

You can stand tall till the floor gives way,

D

But salvation's waitin' where the proud men break.
Em C Em
Knees first... that's how the lost get found.

Verse 2

Em
Another man painted his face on every wall,
C
Called himself the father of it all.
G D
Ended up crawling from a hole in the dirt,
Em
Empire gone, just a shadow and a shirt.
Em
Then there was the hatchet man who thought he ran the game,
C
Till the prison door slammed and he finally learned his name.
G D
Pride had him locked till the tears cut through...
Em
That's when the old man died and the new one came through.

Final Chorus (back to Em, thicker – add low haunting choir “oohs” + distorted electric swells)
Same chords as main Chorus, but bigger and slower.
Outro
Em | C | G | Em
(fade with choir pads and sparse slide)