A call to life

Dear Father,

I've been thinking. Contemplated things. Intentions. Hidden truths. Plans, strategies of my heart. Purity and the lack of it. I've strived for things because I was looking for affirmation. Reputation, status, a name, influence, power and the like. I can find reasons for it and name causes but that doesn't change much. It's more useful to see what's been revealed, exposed. That I have been wanting to prove myself and have been trying to take on this role...

"Follow me", is a brief summary of my mission. Now matter how piously I formulate it, this is the way it is. "Serve me and love me". Ignorant and still "I know...". Weak and yet "I am strong". Lonely but still "I'll fly solo". Desperate and still "I won't look for help". Insecure and still "I know what I want". Struggling with identity and still "I know who I am".

Blind, poor, helpless, betrayed, wounded, despicable, humiliated, unwanted, burdened, foolish, abandoned, dirty, rebellious, unreliable, dangerous, negative, defeated, unwilling, furious, vengeful, disobedient, calculating, closed, treacherous, dual, selfish, full of self-pity, despised, self-protecting.
In that condition, You found me.
Unseen, unheard, poisoned by lust, proud, legalistic, merciless, unaffected, falsely devout, hypocritical, a control freak, suspicious, full of doubt, rigid, discouraged, full of pain, hostile, envious, dissatisfied, ungrateful, irreverent.
In that condition, You found me.
Headstrong, obstinate, on a short leash, mendacious, deceitful.
You found me in that condition.
"LIVE!", You called, "LIVE!"

"You are Mine, I care for you. I give you a name and I, I stand up for you. I choose you because I want it. I want it and I attach Myself to you. My covenant is eternal and My promise is true. As true as My Name is, so is My faithfulness. I am the one calling your name, I am the one who knows you. I take away your shame, I clothe you with dignity. For Me, Mine. I seized you, drew you to Me. You are my child, My servant, the apple of My eye. I preserved you for My purpose. I love you. I will see My fruit grow in you. By Me, for Me. I will complete My work. Follow Me, serve Me, obey Me, live with Me, delight in Me. Listen and take time to listen. I will speak, do not ignore My voice. Treat My Spirit with awe. I am holy. I love you, you are Mine."

Yes, Daddy God, I am Yours. I will listen. Thank You that You want to converse with me in such a personal way. Thank You, Holy Spirit. You speak to my heart. You say it such a clear way. You know all hidden things. You search everything and You are resolute. A second place no more (or even lower). First place. Show me where I need to (re)dedicate myself to You. You are number One. May my words become reality. Thank You for choosing me and for being so patient. I think this is very special. That You talk to me like this and that You are merciful and patient.

I think this is very beautiful. You are beautiful. Wow. I wish I could express it in a better way. But I think You appreciate it, You like to hear it. The way I do it. I think You are beautiful, intriguing, ingenious, strong, reliable, full of humor, compassionate. That's what I think.
Yes, I feel at home with You. I feel safe when I am with You. You are a true Friend to me. You are a true Father to me. To me, You are an awe-commanding God. If You'd ask me, You are a powerful Warrior, a Victor. That's how it feels.

Pure delight, I savor Your presence. We should do this more often.

Written on December 20, 2008 (originally written in Dutch, translated for readability's sake).
Scriptural references (next page) added on April 15, 2009.

Scriptural references in OT-NT order (NKJV)

Exodus 34:14 *"for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God"*

Jeremiah 17:9-10 *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings."*

Ezekiel 16:1-13 *"Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem: "Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born.*

"And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' Yes, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare.

"When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD.

"Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil. I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk. I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty."

Psalm 19:14 *"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, o LORD, my strength and my Redeemer."*

Proverbs 20:27 *"The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart."*

John 11:43-44 *"Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."*

John 15:3-5,14-16 *"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (...) You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."*

Romans 8:15-16 *"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."*

Hebrews 4:12-13 *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."*

James 4:5 *"Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?"*