Read Hebrews 10:24-25.

Some people are extroverts and love to be in crowds and gain energy from being around others. Some people, like me, are introverts, and crowds can leave them feeling depleted. Introverts are quite content to spend time alone and find that time alone is needed to recharge. Yet, I believe we all have a deep need for community—not just a need to hang out with others, but a need for a community of people who call forth the best out of us, who encourage and hold us accountable, who are willing to disagree with us lovingly and “provoke one another to love and good deeds” as Hebrews puts it.

Friendships and community often occur around various shared interests whether it is a shared major or shared hobby or shared background. Sometimes it may be tempting to have friendships based on any number of things without your relationship to God being a part of the conversation. You may wish to be privately spiritual and do your thinking about God in the privacy of your own head. Doing so can cut down on conflicts and possible misunderstandings, but it makes life much less interesting and less provocative. Finding a community of those people who encourage you in life and in your walk with God may be difficult to find, but it is worth the effort and is urged by the writer of Hebrews.

Life Question: Who in your life provokes you to love and good deeds?

Prayer: Lord, help me find a community of love and encouragement as I seek to follow you. Amen

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