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I love to be alone. Whether it's reading, blogging, or simply puttering around the house, if quietness is enveloping me I'm happy. Maybe it's because it's usually so loud around here with my kids and husband that I love to absorb the solitude. Sitting at my desk with a steaming cup of coffee and watching the dust motes dance through a sunbeam, to me, is a blissfully peaceful moment.

Yet, looking at all this alone time makes me realize that I've become too insular. I've created a beautiful nest in which my family dwells, but do I take the time to look outside of it? Am I too caught up in finding time just for me that I miss the opportunities that God might be leaving outside my door? My husband is a detail person. He will be the first one to notice a hungry homeless man on the street, or think about someone who's lost a loved one and just needs some words of encouragement. I blush with shame when I think about all the times he has wanted to invite people over for a meal, and I thought of all sorts of excuses as to why it just won't work to have them over. What has grown inside me to make me an inhospitable person?

I love the Lord and God has been merciful to me in more ways than I deserve—inch by inch I've clawed my way toward God. Yet, I remain somewhat distant and reserved toward those God may wish me to see. There is a time to be alone and have that “me” time, but I'm also seeing there is a time to look outward. I'm resolving to be open the next time my husband wants to invite people in. I will not look for excuses if someone calls and wants to drop by unexpectedly.

I've been shown great love and compassion in my lifetime, and God wants me to shower it on others as well. I believe God is trying to turn me inside out! I'm inspired by my husband to be a great help, to see someone's pain, and to recognize someone's loneliness. I'll still relish my alone time, but with God's help, I will be able to step out into the light more often. 📌



Editor's note: This column is a forum for women to share perspectives on the current timbrel theme. It introduces women spanning their 20's–30's, 40's–50's, and 60's and above. If you are interested in writing for this column, please contact editor, Patricia Burdette, at <PattyB@Men-noniteWomenUSA.org>.