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## Gabriel Marcel

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Published version. "Gabriel Marcel" in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*. Ed. Daniel Patte. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010: 758. © 2010 Cambridge University Press. Used with permission.

**Marcel, Gabriel** (1889–1973), existential philosopher, playwright, composer, literary critic, book editor; friend of Bergson\*, Maritain\*, and Ricoeur\* and a critic of Jean-Paul Sartre's atheistic existentialism\*. A convert to Roman Catholicism (1929), he criticized the modern obsession with technology\* that ignored the God-given dignity of each person\*, the value of intimate interpersonal relations, and the deep human need for being (God). Using phenomenological\* analysis of lived experience, he was among the first to explain the distinction between I–thou\* and I–him/her relations, between being and having: the phenomenon of lived body; the situated dependent character of the self; the characteristics of fidelity, hope\*, love\*, and humility\*; and the experiences involving obscure participation in an Absolute Thou, ensuring eternal\* fulfillment.

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