**What Scriptures say about God being the one "from whom all blessings flow"**

God demonstrated the correct order—God loved/God gave. This is the order with the creator, and so it should be with us. **John 3:16**

“Remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth.” **Deut. 8:18**

“O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from Your hand, and all of it belongs to You.” **1 Chronicles 29:16**

“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it!” **Psalm 24:1**

﻿“The silver is mine and the gold is mine, declares the Lord Almighty.” **Haggai 2:8**

“You are not your own; you were bought with a price.” **1 Cor 6:19–20**

**Scripture that shows that giving is about "people" and leads to a joyful response.**

in 2 Corinthians 8 where Paul tells the church in Corinth about the generosity of the Macedonians. They gave beyond their ability and gave with overflowing joy because they wanted to “share in the ministry to the saints.” Paul states that they “urgently pleaded” for the “privilege” of giving. 

**Giving is God's business plan for funding ministry: Ministry is about making disciples**

Jesus gave the mission to the church in **Matt 28:18–20** when He gave the Great Commission.

**Giving transforms the heart of the giver**

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where ﻿thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **Matt 6:19–21**

"One gives freely yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered." **Proverbs 11:24-25**

**Those with wealth are part of God's plan for funding ministry**

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this ﻿way they will lay up treasures for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. **1 Tim 6:17–19**

**There is always a cost/sacrifice to accomplish God's work**

In 2 Samuel 24:24, King David, when given the opportunity to give to God an offering that would not affect his balance sheet negatively or diminish his net worth by a single penny, offers a challenging response when he said, “I will not offer to the Lord my God that which costs me nothing.” King David understood that real giving often involves sacrifice.