Genesis 15-17 – Abraham, Father of faith

What impression did you have of Abram?

Abram filled with fear?

“How can you bless me when I have no one to pass that blessing on to… except Eliezer?”

Abram trusts YHWH

Gen 15:6, “Abram believed God and it was credited to his righteousness.”

But …

… Abram questions if God will really give them the land (15:8)

… Abram has a child with Hagar his wife’s maidservant.

… Abram laughs at God’s idea of giving Sarah a child and asks God to reconsider and accept his idea of simply making Hagar’s child Ismael the recipient of the promises.

Abraham is a man of faith BUT … his faith in God is all over the place.

God is Sovereign

Nothing … rivals him, directs him, controls him or can stop his plans coming to pass

A covenant

…it is YHWH who does all the work.

Gen 15:17 … only YHWH passed between the two halves of the dead animals.

But what about circumcision?

Is Abram earning his side of the covenant with the practice of circumcision?

… a sign of the promise acceptance.

… a constant reminder … of the Hagar and Ishmael incident.

What about Ishmael?

… not a child of the covenantal promise. Gen 17:21

For us today

… not a promise to you, that if you get to 99 years old that God will give you a child if you trust him enough.

The nature of saving faith

Abram took God at his word and trusted YHWH.  
YHWH is 100% worthy of our trust.

Abraham’s faith in the NT

Rom 4:3 … someone who is right before God based on his trust in God not based on his law keeping. (see also Romans 4:22)

Galatians 3:6 … Abraham is made right before God based on the fact he took God at his word and trusted him.

So, what does our trust in God’s promises look like in our lives?