Reverend John Franklin Early was born October 5, 1905, in Marion, N.C. He was married to Myrtle Robbin on September 1, 1928, and they had eight children, five girls and three boys.

He was ordained at the Green Street Baptist Church and served as pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist from February 16, 1947 to October 6, 1947. Other churches he pastored included Beaula, Pea Ridge, Peniel, Bethlehem, Bethel, and Glenwood.